

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

Editorial and Executive Office: 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois

An Independent Christian Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Modernism, Worldliness and Formalism.

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God Became Flesh

By Rev. Malcolm R. Cronk, Pastor
Wheaton Bible Church, Wheaton, Illinois

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh . . ."—I Tim. 3:16.

That there is a great mystery concerning our religion is a fact not to be disputed. The great truths in connection with our Christian faith are beyond human comprehension. Only as the Son of God enlightens us can we even begin to understand any of them as we ought. The only thing simple about our religion is that men believe God. But the God whom they believe and the tremendous works that He does in response to man's believing are great beyond our ability to comprehend or to declare. Surely, "Great is the mystery of godliness."

The very first fact that faces us in this connection is, "God was manifest in the flesh." Who came into our world? God did. Who became man? God did. This Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Mary, who worked the carpentry trade, who to most people was a man and no more than a man, was, in fact, "God manifest in the flesh."

There are at least four major channels of divine Revelation in support of this proposition. I want to call your attention to them suggestively as follows. First, the names that are given to our Lord in both the Old and New Testaments identify Him as being God; Second, the perfections or qualities of being ascribed to Him are perfections which can be true only of God and they therefore identify Him as God. Third, the works that He performed in the Old Testament era, the New Testament era, and the works that He shall yet perform according to prophecy are all of such a character as that only God could do them; these works tell us He is God. Finally, that great body of Scripture in both the Old and New Testaments which presents angels and men as worshipping Him and speaking His worthiness, a worthiness which is due only

God, identify Him to us as God. The object of all of this for us is that if Jesus Christ is not God, then we men are without a Saviour and our religion is an utter hoax. In honesty we ought to close our churches and quit spending our money and time and give

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Rev. Malcolm R. Cronk

ARE YOU READY?

By the late George W. Truett, D.D., LL.D.
Long pastor First Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex.

I am ready.—Romans 1:15.

Frequently in the writings of Paul we come across his statement: "I am ready." These three words may well be regarded as a kind of motto for his life, after he had surrendered to Christ.

Before his revolutionary experience on the road to Damascus, Paul had been a bitter opponent of Christ and all His followers. In his earlier years Paul was notoriously hostile to Jesus. He believed that Jesus was a fraud and he did his utmost to destroy one whom he regarded as a pretender. He frankly tells us that he thought he was doing God's service when he was persecuting Christians and making conditions as terrible as he could for all who professed to be followers of Christ.

There came a day, however, when he underwent a complete change in his attitude toward Christ and His followers. That day and that experience in the life of Paul marked one of the great turning points in the history of Christianity.

You will recall that Saul, afterwards known as Paul, was on his way to the city of Damascus in his furious campaign of persecution of Christians wherever he could find them. Suddenly, at the noon hour, he was struck down and blinded by a great light from Heaven. As he lay there prostrate upon the ground he heard a voice saying: "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" And Saul answered: "Who art thou, Lord?" And the same voice replied: "I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest." Promptly, Saul, trembling and astonished, said: "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

That question of Saul's marked the beginning of the attitude which, for the rest of his life, we find summarized in his saying, "I am ready." I think the world has

no record of a greater change, a more revolutionary or resultful right-about-face, than the conversion of Saul of Tarsus who became Paul the Apostle to the Gentiles, the one whose motto was, "I am ready."

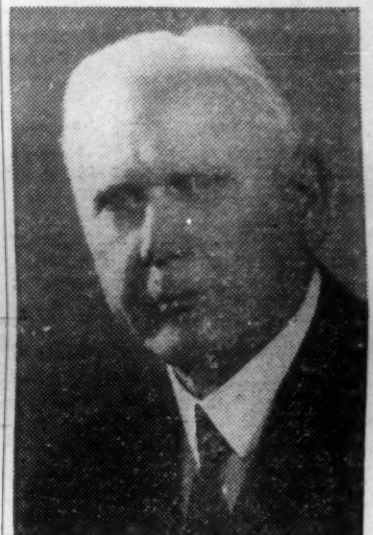
In striking contrast to Paul was an old Saxon king called Ethelred, who was never ready for any demand or duty. Not quite ready at any time for any call, so much so that his people characterized him on the pages of history as Ethelred the Unready. One may well believe that the old Saxon has had many successors, for wherever a great cause is promulgated, there is some Ethelred who says: "I am for it, you understand, but this is not the time, conditions are inopportune; you had better defer until a more propitious time. I am deeply in sympathy but this is not the time." Ethelred, the old Saxon king, undoubtedly has many successors.

Now, Paul, in marked contrast, said from that meeting—that memorable destiny-determining meeting with Christ on the Damascus road—from that time Paul said, "I am ready."

Ready for Service

I cite four occasions when Paul used these words. First he said, "I am ready for service, anywhere that God wishes, whatever it may be, wherever it may take me, whatever it may cost me, I am ready for service in the cause of Christ." Here in his letter to the

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Dr. George W. Truett

How to Eat the Word

By Rev. James M. Gray, D.D.
Late President Moody Bible Institute, Chicago

"Thy words were found and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart."—Jer. 15:16.

There is a great difference between "finding" the Word of God and "eating" it, and it is the man who eats that gets the benefit out of it. Eating makes digestion and assimilation possible, and when these functions are normal in their working, the result is health and strength, and all the usefulness and joy of living.

But eating comes first, and the eating that counts is that which has taken plenty of time for mastication. You must retain the food in your mouth, and get the full taste out of it, and let it mingle well with the saliva, and chew, and chew, and chew, until the least possible amount is left to swallow. The man who does this has learned how to keep well, and how to eat almost anything he likes without ill results. Keeping the food in the mouth is the key to it all.

Something like this is true in the higher realm. Usefulness and joy in the spiritual life depend on spiritual health and strength. But those in turn depend on the spiritual nourishment one takes—its kind, its quantity, its condition. The only nourishment for man's soul is the Word of God. "Desire the sincere milk of the Word that ye may grow thereby," is the in-

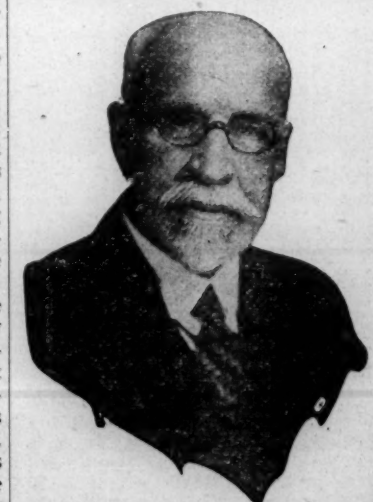
spired exhortation (I Pet. 2:2), and the more you get of it the better, always provided that you can digest and assimilate it.

Here comes the thought of eating again.

Holding the Word in Your Mind

Holding the Word in your mind is like holding the food in your mouth. That is how to get full taste of it. Prayer does in the one case what the saliva does in the other. Turn it round and round, thinking of it from this point of

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Dr. James M. Gray

The Unpardonable Sin

A Bible Message on
That Terrible Sin Which Cannot Be Forgiveness in This World
Or The World to Come, Which Puts a Man Over the
Deadline, Beyond God's Mercy, Beyond Repentance, As Eternally Damned As
If He Were Already in Hell
By Evangelist John R. Rice

"And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man . . ." Gen. 6:3.

"Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come"—Matt. 12:31, 32.

"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame"—Heb. 6:4-6.

There is a sin that "shall not be forgiven unto men." There is a sin which if a man commits it "it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come." There is an unpardonable sin.

A beloved brother has a great sermon on "The Sin Which God Will Not Forgive," and he means that God will not save one who will not trust Jesus Christ for salvation. Strictly speaking, that sermon is misnamed; God will

forgive the sin of past unbelief when one turns from the sin and trusts Christ for forgiveness. But there is a sin beyond that which can never be forgiven. Men never repent of it. This sin, once committed, is irrevocable. When I speak of the unpardonable sin, I mean that there is a sin for which one cannot have forgiveness in this world, of which a man never repents, from which a man never

turns, can never be cleansed and forgiven.

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Dr. John R. Rice

Preaching ~ Power ~ Promotion



"... the word of the Lord. . . Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."—Zech. 4:6

By Dr. D. A. (Scotchie) McCall
Minister of Revival Promotion,
Sword of the Lord Foundation

I. For Parents Only

THINKING that three hours of any movie are harmless for the child, but that two hours of church and Sunday School are too much for his nervous system is just bad thinking.

GIVING him a nickel for the collection and 50 cents for the movies and only shows a parent's sense of value, but is also not likely to produce a proportionate giver.

LETTING him listen to several hours of radio thrillers a day with no time for one short prayer and a few Bible verses is criminal unbalance.

BEING careful that Junior had his week-day lessons, and caring not that he knows not his Sunday School lessons makes for spiritual illiteracy.

SAYING that a child must make his own decisions as to whether or not he should go to church, or as to what church, is shirking parental responsibility.

WHEN FATHER spends Sunday morning in mowing the lawn, cleaning the garden, or playing golf, his sons are left to walk alone.

WHEN PARENTS idle away Sunday morning in reading the paper or listening to the radio, while brother and sister are sent by themselves to church, something happens to the children's evaluation of church attendance.

"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."—Copied.

II. None Like Jesus

Yes, Christ was God made manifest in the flesh. When Napoleon Bonaparte was exiled on St. Helena, he was asked by one of his friends, "Who was the greatest warrior the world has ever known?" Without hesitation, Napoleon answered, "Jesus Christ." "But," said his friend, "you have not always talked that way. When you were winning battles, even up to the very time of Waterloo, you left the impression that you were the world's greatest warrior."

This is how Napoleon replied, "Yes, I have always acted as though I thought I was the world's greatest conqueror. I have had

lots of time to think since I have been here on this island. The Caesars, Alexander the Great, Hannibal, Charlemagne, and myself—we have fought with blood and tears and swords and iron, and we lost. All of us lost. We lost our scepters, our crowns and our offices. The only sword Christ had was a broken reed: His crown, some twisted thorns; His army, a band of fishermen and farmers; His ammunition, a heart of redeeming love. He lives, and I and my kind die. I stand here and call for the Old Guard to come, but they do not hear me. There are no responding voices. My old soldiers do not hear me. I hear nothing but the waves as they bite at the rock beneath my feet. But after 1800 years have gone into the tomb of time, Christ calls and men answer. If need be, they give their bodies to be burned; if need be, they follow Him into the heart of Africa; but, better still, they live patient and triumphant lives in His name. Yes, the other warriors and I will ride down to dust, but Christ will live forever."

Excerpt from *And Be Ye Saved*—A Book of Revival Sermons by C. Gordon Bayless.

III.

God Asks vs. Man Requests

First, some men ask us for gifts which as to size are without rhyme or reason. They show little or no sense of values or proportion. They can ask you as glibly for \$10,000 as for 10c.

Second, there are some men who are long at asking but short on giving on their own part. We used to hear the pastor of a First Church soundly criticized on that score.

Third, it is almost amusing to hear some people at once, when asked for contributions to a worthy cause, begin to talk about what they do not have, and what they cannot give.

Fourth, as is true everytime, God in His Word has a pertinent word to fit life's problems. In II Corinthians 8:12 we read, "For if there first be a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not."

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AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING REVIVAL WEEKLY

EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE, D.D., Litt.D. Editor and Publisher
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THE EDITOR'S Notes by John R. Rice

Happy New Year, everybody! You have already had your New Year's day. This is dictated Sunday night, December 28. May the Lord help us to be a greater blessing to every reader this year than ever before. Please pray for the Sword of the Lord and be a steady friend to this work, will you?

Sermons This Week

The sermon, "God Became Flesh," by Rev. Malcolm R. Cronk, pastor of Wheaton Bible Church, is a heart-warming and convincing proof that Jesus is God, the God-man. When Christ was born, God became flesh! You will love this message, and you should read it over at least twice very carefully and get these Scriptures and truths fixed in your mind. Feel free to write Brother Cronk if you are blessed by this message.

Dr. George W. Truett was for forty-seven years pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas, and saw that church under his leadership grow to a membership of about ten thousand, perhaps the largest in the world, and occupying a city block in downtown Dallas. Read Dr. Truett's sermon on the famous words of the Apostle Paul, "I Am Ready . . ." It will do you good. And search your own heart to see if you are really ready for anything God has for you—ready to serve, ready to rebuke sin and help failing Christians, ready to suffer, ready to die! We are grateful for permission from Eerdmans to use this great sermon.

My own sermon on "The Unpardonable Sin" will, I hope, be used of God to win many souls to Christ. Will you see that some unsaved loved ones or friends read this message? If you are earnest and press the matter, I believe that we may hear from many, many precious souls who will find Christ through this Gospel message. Please help get people to read it.

And you will like the "How to Eat the Word" by Dr. James M. Gray, long president of Moody Bible Institute.

Dr. Edman in Africa

Day before yesterday (the day after Christmas), Dr. V. Raymond Edman, president of Wheaton College, left Wheaton to fly with Mr. R. G. LeTourneau to Africa where he will help in the spiritual side of setting up a great industrial mission on the West Coast of Africa, in Liberia. His friends and ours will pray that God's smile will be upon this great effort to improve the lot of Africans materially, and so to open the doors to win them to Christ.

Dr. Edman is one of the distinguished judges for the Sword Book Club. (Others are Dr. Bob Jones, Jr., Dr. John L. Hill, Dr. T. Roland Phillips, Dr. Henry Hepburn, Dr. Lee Roberson, Evangelist Bill Rice and I.) A few nights ago, Mrs. Rice and I were happy to have Dr. and Mrs. Edman, with Pastor Malcolm R. Cronk and Mrs. Cronk, as guests in our home for dinner. We had pot roast of elk meat, from my September hunting trip in the Rocky Mountains, and we had a pleasant conversation about spiritual matters and a wonderfully good time. Then after perhaps an hour and a quarter around the table, we stopped for a quiet circle of prayer and we agreed together and carried our burdens to the Lord, about Wheaton College, about Dr. Edman's trip to Africa, about the people in Wheaton, and the churches, about the Sword of the Lord and its work. How sweet it is when people who believe all the Bible and have laid all on the altar, as far as they know, can meet to talk and pray about the things of God!

Dr. Bob Jones, Sr. to Australia

Our beloved brother and friend, the famous evangelist Dr. Bob Jones, Sr., founder of Bob Jones University, will soon be leaving for a preaching tour of Australia. He has been preaching about fif-

Noteworthy NEWS Notes

Far Eastern Broadcasting Company Installs Seventh Transmitter

"Another Christian radio transmitter on the airwaves of Asia," is the report received from Christian Radio City Manila, where the Far East Broadcasting Company has added its seventh transmitter. FEBC operates 22 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, and last year logged more than 30,000 broadcasts. The company has facilities in every country of Asia outside the Iron Curtain.

Southern Baptist Home Mission Board Votes to Ask for Loan Fund

The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has voted (12/9) to ask Convention approval for setting up a \$10 million loan fund to help build new churches. The Baptist General Convention of Texas voted last July to organize a \$2,500,000 loan corporation for promoting building in Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Washington, Oregon and California.

Premiere Showing of "Oil Town, U.S.A." Scheduled

Washington, D.C., December 23—Walter H. Smyth, Director of Billy Graham Evangelistic Films, Inc., announced this week completion of the newest film production "Oil Town, U.S.A." Some be-

lieve it will become the world's greatest Christian movie. Houston, Texas—around which the story was written—will also present the World Premiere of the film in its 10,000 seat Coliseum with three showings scheduled for March 3, 4 and 5. Other showings are scheduled throughout the nation. The film, produced in full color, is an hour and twenty minutes long, and centers around the Billy Graham Crusade in Houston.

Harold Shaw Appointed Director of Moody Correspondence School

CHICAGO: Dr. William Culbertson, president of Moody Bible Institute, recently announced the appointment of Harold Shaw as new director of the Institute's correspondence school.

Shaw, a WMBI staff announcer, succeeds Philip R. Newell, now dean of student affairs.

The new director holds a bachelor of science degree in business management from Boston University. He was associated with the sales department of the Sylvania Electric Company and during World War II served as captain with the U. S. Army in England.

The correspondence school offers over 20 courses to more than 10,000 active students each year from all over the world. The aim of the school is to help the believer become better prepared for Christian service.

ty-four years, but he reminds me of Moses whose eye was not dimmed, nor his natural strength abated, when he brought the children of Israel to the edge of Jordan. How our brother can preach! He asks me and SWORD OF THE LORD readers to pray for him. Pray for his great preaching ministry. Pray for Bob Jones University with its three thousand students and some twelve hundred ministerial students. Pray for the radio, WMUU, where the Gospel goes out every hour of the day. Pray for the Christian film ministry. Pray for Dr. Bob Jones, Jr., the brilliant president of Bob Jones University who will soon be making a trip to Europe. Dr. Bob, Sr., is the dean of all the evangelists and how my soul is blessed by his preaching! I have promised to be with Bob Jones

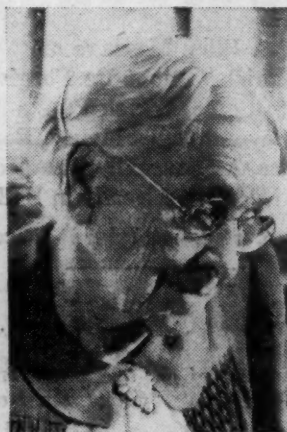
University for the Spring Bible conference, and Dr. Bob is to be with some of the Sword of the Lord conferences this summer, God willing. Pray for both Dr. Bobs!

Portland, Oregon Conference on Soul Winning Postponed

It deeply moved me to be invited to put on a Sword of the Lord Conference on Revival and Soul Winning in Portland, Oregon. Dr. Phillips, widely-known Youth For Christ leader, and the committee which brought Evangelist Billy Graham to Portland for the city-wide campaign, extended me the invitation to come and bring such other Spirit-filled soul winners as I could to put on a conference teaching how to win souls; how to have revivals, how

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36 Years Too Late!



That's what one woman said about the book, "THE HOME, Courtship, Marriage, and Children," by Dr. John R. Rice. Her children were grown, and she faced the evening of life with many regrets. "If only I had had it 36 years ago," she said, "what a difference it would have made!" A young mother from Otterbein, Indiana, read the book, saw how much it would help her, and wrote, "I just finished reading your book, *The Home*. And I wanted to tell you that it has helped me so much as a wife and mother. I am happy I had the privilege of reading this book while I am yet so young because it will serve as a guide for our Christian home into the coming years."

Don't let the years slip by, and then regret the wasted opportunities! While your children are young, before wrong patterns are established in the home, get this book!

Dr. John R. Rice, beloved author and evangelist, himself father of six, has written a Bible manual on the home that can help your home, as it has helped literally thousands of others. He discusses honestly and carefully, in chaste, Spiritual language the problems that face young people. He handles with great understanding matters of child discipline, and the relationships of husband and wife. He shows how a happy home is built on patient and prayerful attention to the Word of God.

Chapter Titles: Marriage and Home, Courtship and the Dangers of Petting; Some Things That Should Delay Marriage; Some Should Never Marry; Man, God's Deputy as Head of the Home; Wives Should Be Subject to Husbands; Normal Sex Life in Marriage; Adultery, the Ruin of Marriage and Morals; Divorce, the Wreck of Marriage; Making Christ the Head of the Home; The Blessing of Children; Birth Control, Correction and Discipline of Children; "Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother"; Family Worship in the Home; Prayer in the Home; Teaching Children the Bible; Winning Children to Christ; Character building in the Home; Cooperating With Church, School and Community.

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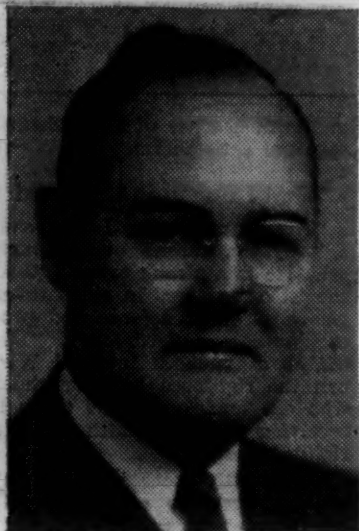
Eminent Christian Leaders From All Over America, Members of Sponsoring Board and Council for *The Sword of the Lord*

We are proud to name and picture on this page the distinguished men of God, friends of the editor and of *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*, who serve on our cooperating Board.

A little consideration will prove that these are among America's most influential Christian leaders. Every one of them believes the Bible to be the very Word of God, believes all the historic fundamentals of our Christian faith. Every one devotedly loves and serves Jesus Christ. Every one believes the things for which *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* stands for and says so plainly. We are deeply grateful for their friendship, their encouragement, their co-operation. As we plan to enlarge this work, their counsel and prayers and sponsorship are most valuable.

These men of God have great burdens on their shoulders in the work of God. Pray for them. Thank God for them!

With pride and joy and brotherly love, we present the greatly used men of God who are on *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* Co-operating Board.



DR. RICHARD V. CLEARWATERS, President, Conservative Baptist Association of America; Dean of Northwestern Seminary, Minneapolis; Pastor of Fourth Baptist Church.



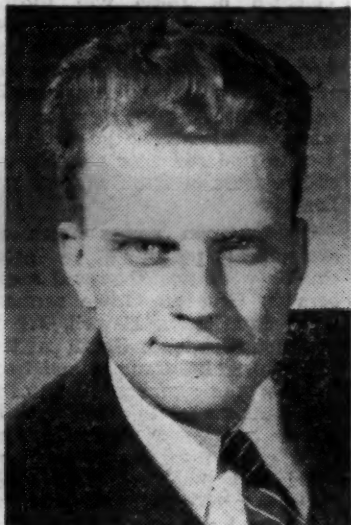
DR. ROBERT A. COOK, President, Youth For Christ, International, Chicago. Perhaps the world's best-known Christian youth leader.



DR. M. R. DEHAAN, Radio Bible Class broadcast, coast-to-coast, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Eminent Bible teacher.



DR. V. RAYMOND EDMAN, President of Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, judge for the Sword Book Club, widely known author and youth speaker.



DR. BILLY GRAHAM, Evangelist, Washington, D.C. Dr. Billy Graham has tremendous crowds in many of his revival campaigns, often exceeding those of Billy Sunday and D. L. Moody. He is a lover of *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*.



DR. J. H. HUNTER, Editor of *The Evangelical Christian*, Toronto; author of famous novels, *Mystery of Mar Saba*, *Banners of Blood*, and *Thine Is the Kingdom*.



DR. BOB JONES, SR., Evangelist for some sixty-three years, founder of Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina; one of the most loyal friends *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* ever had.



DR. BOB JONES, JR., President of Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina, with three thousand students, including some twelve hundred ministerial students, five hundred missionary students; Shakespearean scholar.



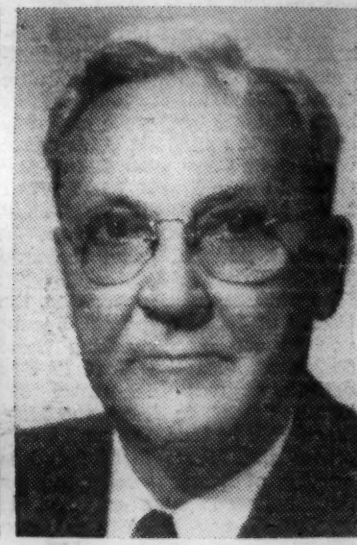
DR. SAM MORRIS, The Voice of Temperance broadcast, San Antonio, Texas, famous preacher, evangelist, and temperance statesman, the editor's friend for twenty-five years.



DR. LEE ROBERSON, President, Tennessee Temple Schools, Pastor, Highland Park Baptist Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee, baptizes more converts than any other local church in the world.



DR. MERV ROSELL, Evangelist, Montrose, California; large city-wide campaigns in Des Moines, Kansas City, Philadelphia, etc.; winsome, splendid musician.



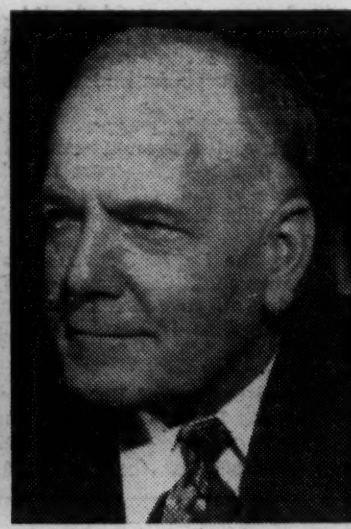
DR. BOB SHULER, Pastor, Trinity Methodist Church, Los Angeles; admirably called "Fighting Bob" for his stand against modernism, communism, liquor and for old-time revivals. Author of *What New Doctrine Is This?*



DR. JACK SHULER, Evangelist, Baldwin Park, California; tremendously large crowds hear him in city-wide campaigns. Brilliant orator, sound Bible preacher, son of Dr. Bob Shuler.



DR. OSWALD J. SMITH, Pastor of The Peoples Church, Toronto, international missionary leader, author of many books.



DR. LOUIS T. TALBOT, Chancellor of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, missionary leader, chain radio broadcaster, one of the most useful Christian leaders west of the Mississippi.



MR. BERNIE ZONDERVAN, brother of Pat. These young men stand out-and-out for the fundamentals of the faith. Business sense, hard work, friendliness, and loyalty to Christ have built their tremendous work.

MR. PAT ZONDERVAN, with his brother pictured next. Head of Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids. Probably have greatest volume of any out-and-out Christian book publishers.

WITH THE Evangelists

REPORTS FROM AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING SOUL WINNERS

By the Editor

EVANGELIST PHIL SHULER was in a revival in the Bethany Reform Church, Chicago, Illinois, during November. Dr. Harry Hager, pastor of the church, our greatly respected friend, was rushed to the hospital for an emergency operation, but the revival went on, with many decisions recorded. Brother Shuler may be reached at 1395 Michillinda, Pasadena 8, California.

Rev. J. C. Adams, pastor of the South Dallas Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas, writes about a great revival with **EVANGELIST FREDDIE GAGE**. There were 33 reported conversions during the week of November meetings. Evangelist Gage has recently conducted campaigns in the First Baptist Church, Grandfield, Oklahoma, and the Hickory Tree Baptist Church, Dallas.

Sword Staff **EVANGELIST JAMES THRELFALL** conducted

a two-week revival in the First Baptist Church, Randolph, New York, November 24-December 7. Pastor R. Leo Gathany reports that 35 were converted and 68 children confessed Christ as Saviour in the released-time Bible Classes. Brother Threlfall was highly recommended by the pastor, who says, "... Any pastor who is interested in faithful Bible evangelism should find his church blessed by having such a man of God. ..."

A report comes from **EVANGELIST LAWRENCE BAIRD** of Myrtle Creek, Oregon telling of 40 conversions in a revival which closed December 14, in the Christian Church of Prineville, Oregon. He tells of a good meeting in Port Angeles, Washington, in which there were 15 souls saved. In the last quarter of 1952, Brother Baird has seen 132 first-time decisions, with 47 of these being baptized.

God Became Flesh

(Continued from page 1)

way to the philosophy of pleasure—eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die.

I. The Bible Calls Jesus Christ "Jehovah," "I Am," "The Lord" Making Him God

"God was manifest in the flesh." Among the many names given to our Lord in Scripture I have selected just one for our consideration in this message. Turn with me back to the book of Exodus, chapter 3, where God is speaking to Moses, calling and commissioning him to a great work. We read:

"And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name, what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you."—Exod. 3:13, 14.

In this connection turn to the Gospel of John, chapter 8. I want you to see by comparing these Scriptures that the Word of God definitely gives the name "Jehovah, I Am," to Jesus, the Man. Since this is true, it conclusively proves that Jesus is God and is worthy of being worshipped as God, believed upon as God, is worthy of our entire trust and committal of life and substance. In John 8 note verses 52 to 59:

"Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death. Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself? Jesus answered, If I honor myself, my honor is nothing: it is my Father that honoreth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God: Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by." Did they understand what He thereby claimed? They certainly did, because they took up stones to stone Him. The claim, if not true, was blasphemous. He was taking to Himself a title that belonged only to God; and they did not believe He was God. Therefore, they thought that He was

blaspheming and they picked up stones to stone Him.

In further evidence that the name Jehovah is given to our Lord, we turn to Isaiah, chapter 6, where we read:

"In the year that King Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple."

Then you have seraphims falling upon their faces before this One of the throne and crying, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of Hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory" (vs. 3).

Then again in verse 8 the prophet hears a voice "the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me." The Lord of Hosts, the Lord of this vision, then says to the prophet Isaiah,

"Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed." Vs. 9, 10.

Now in this connection turn to the Gospel of John, chapter 12 and see how our Lord takes this passage from Isaiah and applies it to Himself in a most unique manner. In verses 39 to 41:

"Therefore they could not believe, because that Isaiah said again, He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. These things said Isaiah, when he saw his glory, and spake of him."

Whose glory did he see? He saw the glory of the Lord of Hosts. Jesus referring to that vision identified Himself as the One who appeared to Isaiah, the One who spoke to Isaiah, and thereby identified Himself as Jehovah God. And why, you may ask? That men might see and hear and know that He is the Lord of Hosts, the Great Jehovah, the I Am. Certainly these Jews understood what He claimed and they hated Him for it, because they would not believe that He was God. If He had claimed to be only a prophet of God like Isaiah, that would have been all right. They then could have accepted Him. But when He claimed to be God manifest in the flesh, they stumbled and fell, and could not believe.

Next note Isaiah, chapter 40, where we have a major prophecy concerning John the Baptist. It reads:

"The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight

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The Editor's Notes

(Continued from page 2)

to have the power of the Holy Spirit, how to have prayers answered. But a conflict in dates made it impossible for me to come the second week in February, when the slate was open in Portland. We are sorry for the postponement but trust a satisfactory arrangement can be made later in the year. The plans are large, and the whole Northwest ought to be blessed by such a conference which would bring preachers from a number of states, and other Christian workers from the whole area. May the Lord lead about future plans.

That Wonderful Evangelistic Sermon Contest!

We are still thrilled by the tremendous sweep of the Sword \$1,000 Evangelistic Sermon Contest. We received about two hundred and forty-five sermons. Thirteen of these will receive prizes ranging from \$250 down to \$50—a total of \$1,000 in prizes. And you who read THE SWORD OF THE LORD will reap the benefit! Beside these thirteen prize sermons, others are so good we expect to find room for about twenty-five more in THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

One sermon comes from an evangelical pastor of a great church with two thousand members in Greece. Other sermons come from Peru, Hawaii, Japan, England, Scotland, South Africa, from Australia, Canada, and from most of the states of the union. The sermons come from men of fifteen or twenty denominations. They come from seminary presidents and teachers, from Bible institute professors, from pastors, and from leading evangelists. The Advanced Homiletics class of Providence Bible Institute, with their teacher, all entered the contest.

The judging of these manuscripts is hard work, and it goes on steadily by the board of judges including Dr. D. A. McCall, Walter E. Handford, Jr., Evangelist Bill Rice, and this editor. The winners will be announced, God willing, by the first of February. Think what wonderful messages from God readers of THE SWORD OF THE LORD will have through the coming year! We ought to see that every preacher who reads the English language would have this paper for the year and receive the help and suggestions and inspiration which it affords.

Dr. L. Sale-Harrison Writes, Sends Building Fund Gift

Let me share with you the following lovely letter from our beloved brother, Dr. L. Sale-Harrison, famous Bible teacher and preacher of 707 North 188th Street, Seattle 33, Washington. Writing December 13, he sent a check for \$10 for the Sword Building Fund and said the following:

"So you are building for your love work for the Lord. Do you remember the fishermen who were trying to get their boat launched from the beach; and they could not move it? One of them said, 'If we could only get one pound more, we could do it.' A small boy standing by watching them said, 'I can give a pound.' He gave his pound and the boat slid off."

"I am watching your work with interest and prayer. I can only give a pound; but I trust that it will help to slide off the old boat of salvation into the sea of soul-winning."

"May the Lord give you great encouragement, dear brother, by supplying all your needs. Remember Philippians 4:19 is still in the Book."

"With our love,
"Yours in Best of Bonds,"
(Signed) L. & B. Sale-Harrison.

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How To Eat The Word

(Continued from page 1)

view and that, asking questions about it, taking it to your parents, your Sunday School teacher, your pastor, searching its meaning in a commentary—all these things correspond to the chewing that makes good digestion and assimilation.

Now the only way to hold the Word in your mind is to memorize it. It is not hard to do this, and when you begin to see the benefit of it, it becomes a real pleasure. Make the task as easy as possible by taking a small portion at a time.

Don't "Bolt" Your Food

In other words, while you are a beginner let the passage of Scripture be so small that it may be readily recalled several times during the busy day. And see that you do recall it—that is the point. Master your will in the matter until it obeys you almost automatically and you are able to recall the Scripture without effort. You will be surprised how soon you will be able to do this, and it will mean so much to you. It will be better than counting the bank notes you have been hoarding up somewhere, or tasting a sweet morsel hidden away, or conversing with a friend whom you love very much.

The other morning at family prayers I read this verse in Proverbs 18:10: "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runneth into it, and is safe." I at once fastened it correctly in my mind, and as I walked to my office I kept "eating" it, turning it over and over, and getting such a sweet taste out of it

we are doing here at the Sword of the Lord. Will you help, too, in our great expansion program? An increasing number are sending their gifts monthly to the Sword Building Fund. We hope soon to have paid out the Singers' building we bought as of September 1 in Wheaton, and to go on to raise the quarter-million dollar fund for the beautiful dream building we have in mind for our publishing house and printing. We do not ask for all the money you give to the Lord's cause. We only want all who believe in revivals, in the defense of the faith, in soul winning, such as the Sword of the Lord constantly promotes and aids, to send part of their gifts to this great work, as God leads. Will you pray about it?

Christmas Cards From Everywhere—Thanks!

We received this year the most wonderful flood of Christmas greeting cards we ever received. I think Mrs. Rice joins me in thanking you.

I have long felt that I have been so overwhelmed with duties that I could not even write good friends unless they needed help, or there was some special occasion. I have written to uncounted thousands of young converts, or troubled Christians, or pastors who wanted advice, but I fear I have seemed to neglect my friends. How sweet it is to hear from hundreds of you at Christmas time. Thank you! May the Lord make the new year the best you have ever known!

I am profoundly grateful that many have helped in the subscription campaign, which, ere most of you read this paper, will be closed. Thank every one who sent subscriptions. You have invested for God, and He will repay you. Oh, may we set revival fires burning in a million homes and hearts in America and around the world!

Thanks, too, to all who have helped in the Free Literature Fund. We will have news for you and report to you; God willing, very soon on that. And thanks to all who have helped in our Building Fund.

(Continued on page 5)

and such a sense of strength and spiritual satisfaction.

What I Found in the Word

"The name of the Lord," said I, "why, that means the Lord himself! He is a strong tower." "And the 'strong tower,' in olden times was a place of defense and protection, like our forts today." "The 'righteous runneth into it.' Who can the righteous be, save those who are made righteous through receiving Christ by faith as their righteousness?"

"Runneth," there is a thought of haste because of the pursuit by the enemy," and Paul's words came into my mind, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." "Runneth into it and is safe." Oh, the security and peace of the believer who puts his trust in God! And so I kept on "masticating" the Word and finding something new in it at every bite.

But that was not all. Before the day was over I needed all the strength I got out of it. There were trials that day, the enemy was on my heels, and how glad I was to run, and to know the place to run to and be safe!

What the Prophet Meant

I think this is what the prophet meant when he said: "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart." And this is why I urge every Christian to memorize a portion of the Word of God every day. It gives his soul something to feed upon, and the more he feeds upon, and digests and assimilates it, the greater is his spiritual strength, and joy, and power and fruitfulness in the Lord.

Let me illustrate this. The next day after my experience with Proverbs 18:10, I was at prayer meeting, and being suddenly called upon to give a word of exhortation, I had an opportunity to pass on that verse to three or four hundred other people. And to how many more will they pass it on? They were all Bible students preparing for Christian work in the uttermost parts of the earth. Can you compute the number of souls to whom they may pass it on, and on, and on while the age lasts! And all because of that one little bite of truth I got that morning, and because I held it long enough to chew it well!

Memorize the Bible if you want to be blessed and become a blessing.

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God Became Flesh

(Continued from page 4)

in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." —Isa. 40:3-5.

Now turn to Matthew, chapter 3, where we have the record of the fulfillment of this prophecy. We read:

"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." —Matt. 3:1-3.

Whose way is John the Baptist preparing? The way of the Lord. John believed Jesus to be God manifest in the flesh. Jesus accepted the worship and praise and testimony of John, and also actually identified John as the one who fulfilled this prophecy of heralding the Coming One. This all ties in together. If Jesus is not God, the Lord spoken of in the prophecy of Isaiah, then He made a false claim. He is not truthful. He is dishonest. He is not to be believed. He can save no one. He Himself would need a Saviour. Such thoughts are well nigh blasphemous! Who is it, then, that became flesh? None other than God, the Eternal Son.

Another passage from the Old Testament bearing directly on this thesis is Zechariah, chapter 12, where we have a prophecy in connection with the future outpouring of the Spirit. Notice the identity of the One who is speaking in this chapter:

"The burden of the word of the Lord for Israel, saith the Lord, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him." Vs. 1.

There follows a series of statements of what God is going to do with Israel. The writer keeps speaking of "in that day." Then we come to verse 10, which reads:

"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."

Now the speaker all the way through this passage is the Lord, Jehovah of Hosts, the God of Israel. And He says that in that day when He pours out His Spirit, "They shall look upon me whom they have pierced." Please turn to the Gospel of John, chapter 19,

The Editor's Notes

(Continued from page 4)

And Mrs. Rice and I are grateful for good friends who sent offerings for us. One kindly sister sent \$2 and said, "Use this to help pay for Christmas dinner." It is a wonderful comfort that when I stay at home for weeks and months with no revival offerings and with no set income from any source, God puts it on the hearts of some people to send personal gifts. Heavy duties in the office required that I turn down all revival engagements since we closed at Denver, November 22, and until February 9-15, and for most of the Spring, yet God takes care of us and we have been able to give \$100 in December, as in September, October and November, for the Sword Building Fund. For your Christmas cards, for your help in all the work, thank you, and God bless you!

My daughter Joanna, junior in Wheaton College, but working part-time in the Sword office (and throughout the Christmas holidays) said to me as we opened the mail together, "Daddy, I wish everybody knew how you enjoy getting their Christmas cards and letters. I'll bet more people would write."

where the Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of Mary, the well-known, much-loved and much-hated Man of Galilee is pierced on the cross. Both His hands and His feet as well as His side are pierced by nails and the soldier's spear. In this connection now turn to Revelation, chapter 1, verse 7, where we read:

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."

Thus Jesus identifies Himself as the pierced-one referred to in the prophecy of Zechariah. He is the same One who hung upon the cruel cross, who in His second coming will be seen by all, even by those who pierced Him.

You see now, I am sure, that He was God manifest in the flesh. Not God the Father, though co-equal and co-existent with the Father. Not God the Spirit, though alike co-equal and co-existent. But God, the Eternal Son—the second member of the Godhead Three, who covenanted with the Father and the Spirit from eternity past to accept and fulfill this great mediatorial work unto redemption of mankind. And for this purpose, He became flesh according to the will of the Father and by the power of the Spirit. In this manner He came, lived, labored, and died on the cross; rose again, ascended, is seated on the right hand of the Majesty on High; from thence He shall come again in power and great glory to rule and to reign without rival until all has been subdued under His feet; and when He has triumphed over and conquered them all and delivered them back into the hands of His Father, His subjection to the Father in the role of Mediator and His dependence on the Spirit in the consummation of this work will be seen (I Cor. 15:28) by all to have been the expression of Infinite Wisdom, Power, and Love to the reaching and redeeming of fallen humanity. Oh, what worship, praise, and glory He deserves from angels and men!

A final reference in the Old Testament on this theme will conclusively show us that He is "God, manifest in the flesh." I refer to Psalm 83:18, which reads:

"That men may know that thou, whose name alone is Jehovah, art the Most High over all the earth."

This passage shows that the name "Jehovah" is incommunicable to any creature. It belongs only to God; but it is definitely given to Christ, as we have am-

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Advertising Manager



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ly shown. Therefore, He must be God and is, for He bears the name "I Am," "Jehovah," "The Most High" over all.

So the Jesus of whom I love to sing, whose name I love to take upon my lips in prayer and praise; the Jesus who is all the world to me, my life, my joy, my all, is my God. Amen!

II. The Bible Ascribes the Perfections of Deity to Jesus Christ

I now call your attention to the channel of Divine Revelation which ascribes the perfections of deity to Jesus Christ, our Lord. Turn with me to the Gospel of John 5:26 where we read:

"For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself."

What does it mean—"The Father hath life in himself?" It means that He derives His life from no one. There is no beginning nor ending with God. God is not a creature. He is self-existent. He subsists entirely within Himself. So Christ in the same manner, to the same extent, is self-existent. This can be said only of God, never of angel or man. Therein our Lord makes positive assertion of His Deity, that He is very God, God of Himself, self-existent, on equality with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Staggering claim! Which, if it is not true, would make our Lord utterly unworthy of our confidence. If not true our faith is utterly in vain, and we are yet in our sins.

Look again to the Gospel of John 8:58 where we read:

"Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am."

This would definitely pre-date our Lord, before the time of Abraham. Now turn to Colossians 1:15-17 where we read:

"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

By this we see that our Lord was before Abraham, before Adam, before angels, yes—before all things. In this passage Paul claims that Jesus is the "image of the invisible God." Hebrews 1:3 presents Him as "the express image of his [God's] person." All that God is, Jesus is. If God is eternal, so Jesus is! If God is infinite, Jesus is too!

Further, the claim is that He is "the first-born of every creature." This has been interpreted by some to teach that He is a creature, but this passage does in no wise teach that. It teaches rather just the opposite—rather than being Himself a creature, He is the first over creatures, The Prince, the beginning in the sense of

Creator, as the context conclusively proves (esp. vs. 16). Necessarily, therefore, "He is before all things." Thus the eternity of the Son of God is clearly established. There is no point at which He became God. There is a definite point at which He became man. And a very vital part of the teaching of the Incarnation is that when He became man, He did not cease to be God. He simply became God manifest in the flesh. There and then His personality as being Eternal Son of God became manifest in a human nature especially conceived in the womb of Mary by the Holy Spirit. He, the Eternal Son of God, took this human nature into union with His divine nature and in this act became truly man, yet utterly without sin, that He might reclaim us from our sins and bring us to God. Oh, what a wonderful Saviour we have! He is eternal in His being.

Further, let us turn to Jeremiah 23:23, 24 which reads:

"Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off? Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord."

Here the prophet teaches us that God is everywhere present all of the time. Is there any reference in Scripture which ascribes this perfection of deity to Jesus? Does He make any such claim for Himself? He most certainly does! Note the Gospel of John 1:18 which reads:

"No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."

This passage asserts that Jesus "is in the bosom of the Father" even while He was here on earth.

In this same connection note John 3 when Jesus is talking with Nicodemus. In verse 13 we read: "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven."

Here we have Jesus talking with another man; and while He is talking to Nicodemus right here on the earth, in the land of Palestine, He claims that He is at the same moment in Heaven. Who could make a claim like that but God? He made it because He is God. In His human nature and life and in His office as Mediator, He was on earth talking with Nicodemus. But remember, in union with His human nature for His work of mediation was His eternal Person as Son of God; and though He was confined and restricted by His office and in His work to redeem mankind He was at the same moment, and all of the time, the Eternal Son of God.

Now we begin to realize a little of what Paul meant when he said to Timothy, "Great is the mystery of godliness." Truly this is beyond comprehension. But we must

(Continued on page 6)

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God Became Flesh

(Continued from page 5)

never lose sight of the fact that the One who became flesh was none other than God the Son.

Now note the words of Paul in Philippians 3:21 where our Lord is presented as coming again. It is said that at that coming, He will change our bodies that they may be fashioned like unto His glorious body. Here is a work which demands power way beyond anything known to mankind. It is the power of resurrection, the power of glorification, i.e., the power whereby a mortal, corruptible body is changed into a spiritual body of light and life and love fit to dwell in the presence of the infinitely Holy God and respond to Him in worship, praise, and service for ever and ever. Who is able to achieve such a glorious work? He, the Son of God, the One who became flesh, is able! He is able to subdue all things—the Devil, death, sin, men and nations.

He is omnipotent. He is the only One who has ever lived upon this earth who could say:

"I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again."—John 10:17b-18a.

Here He claims the power of resurrection, a power which belong only to God. Now, as a man He was raised from the dead by the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit. But as the Son of God, He acted in co-operation with the Father and the Spirit in His resurrection—so that, it can properly be said of Him that He raised Himself from the dead. He so claimed that He would when He said:

"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up again"—John 2:19; Note also verse 21.

Thus we see that the One who became flesh is none other than God the Son, vested with the Divine Perfection of Omnipotence.

Finally, on this thesis, let us look at the statement of Malachi, chapter 2, verse 6, which reads:

"I am the Lord. I change not." Here we have the quality of deity known as immutability or changelessness. Is this perfection ever predicated of the One who became flesh? Turn to Psalm 102 and note verses 24 to 27, which read:

"I said, O my God, take me not away in the midst of my days: thy years are throughout all generations. Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed: But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end."

This passage is quoted by the writer to the Hebrews, chapters 11, 12 and clearly is applied to Jesus Christ the Lord.

In Hebrews 13:8 the changelessness of Jesus in eternity past, time present, and eternity future is asserted in these words:

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to-day, and for ever."

There was, of course, change in His human body and nature in the sense of growth and development and in the experiences through which He passed. But all of this change was in His humanity and in no wise altered His essential person—the Son of God. We love, worship and serve the Son of God who became flesh in order to live, love, and labor unto death for our redemption and thus bring us to God. And thus we conclude that this One who became flesh, in view of qualities of being which are clearly ascribed to Him in the Holy Scriptures, is none other than the Son of God Himself and therefore, rightly, our Lord.

III. The Bible Ascribes Works to Jesus Which Identify Him As God

I call your attention now to that body of the Divine Revelation which ascribes works to Jesus which can only be accomplished by God; thereby, these works clearly identify Jesus as God. We

have already noted some of the passages which present Him as the Creator, i.e. John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:10; Revelation 3:14. Dare we lightly brush aside the clear statements of Scripture which assert that everything in the world, men, angels, all creatures, thrones, principalities, powers, and all else were created by Him! This is clearly an act which belongs only to God but is everywhere in the Scriptures ascribed to Jesus. Thereby, He is clearly identified as God, and it is He who became flesh!

In Colossians 1:17b we read: "by him all things consist," and in Hebrews 1:3 a similar phrase describes Him as "upholding all things by the Word of his power." These passages present Him to us as the Preserver and Sustainer of the entire universe of angels, men, creatures, and powers. These functions belong only to God, but are clearly said to be exercised by Jesus. Therefore, they identify Him as God. And it is He who became flesh!

Remember the incident recorded in Mark 2:1-12 of the palsied man who was brought to Jesus to be healed? In verse 5b Jesus said,

"Son, thy sins be forgiven thee."

The scribes immediately questioned Jesus' authority to forgive sins, saying,

"Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God only."—Vs. 7.

Thereupon Jesus asserts that though He is man He does have the authority to forgive sins:

"But that ye may know that the Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins. . . Vs. 10.

He thereby claims and exercises a prerogative belonging only to deity and thus identifies Himself as God manifest in the flesh! No other man could exercise this authority. He alone among all men has the power to put away sin. And to establish this right by the shedding of His blood for the putting away of man's sins, He became Himself a man.

Further, this man Jesus raised people from the dead. But, you say, so did men in Old Testament times, i.e., Elijah. How did Elijah do it? By the power and authority of Jehovah. Jesus wrought this act directly in His own name and power. How did the apostles at and after Pentecost exercise this power? In the name of Jesus and by His power. But this Man, Jehovah-Jesus, acting before His incarnation through the prophets, or in His earthly state directly, or from His exalted state now through His apostles, is the God of resurrection. There awaits the greatest of all acts of resurrection in that day when the trump shall sound, our Lord shall speak, and "all who are in their graves shall come forth" (John 5:28, 29). He is the one who became flesh!

Jesus claimed in John 5:22b that "God hath committed all judgment unto the Son" or in verse 27, "And hath given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man." As God, He is omniscient and knows everything about men and angels which would be essential to being their Judge. As man, He has identified Himself with man so as to rightly and properly represent man. As a man, He fulfilled all righteousness and therefore is Himself without judgment—thus qualified to judge His fellowmen. But further, as a perfect man, He went to the cross to shed His blood to put away the sins of others—which offering was perfect and is efficient. This further qualifies Him to judge His fellowmen. But in addition, He sent the Holy Spirit and has caused the good news of His love and redemptive work to be published abroad so that men might hear, believe and be saved. This consummately establishes His right to judge.

God clearly asserts in Acts 17:31 that He "hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." Thus is shown that Jesus is the Judge. He will judge the nations, Israel, the Church, and angels. He is the

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Judge on the Great White Throne, on the Bema-Seat, on the Throne of David. Wherever there is judgment, He is the Judge. He is the One with whom we have to do.

How this sobering fact ought to strike home to our hearts! We are not dealing with men or their philosophies; not dealing with the visible church organization nor its ordinances; not dealing with optional material. But we are dealing directly with God manifest in the flesh and with the message of that manifestation. It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God; and since He is the One into whose hands all men must and will fall, He is the living God. He is the consuming fire. At the same time, He is the God of love, mercy, grace and forgiveness to all who believe. Thus we see that the works of creation, preservation, forgiveness of sins, resurrection, and judgment ascribed to Jesus Christ, the One who became flesh, identify Him as God.

IV. Jesus Christ Is Pictured As Worshipped and Worthy of Worship As God

In conclusion I call your attention to Hebrews, chapter 1, verse 6, which reads:

"And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, Let all the angels of God worship him."

If he was not worthy of worship as God, was this not a terrible mistake on the part of the Father on that first Christmas morning to permit, yea command, the angels to worship Him? They worshipped Him as God when they adored Him and sang His praises. If He were not God manifest in the flesh, this worship would have made both the Father and the holy angels guilty of sin. Perish the thought! It was proper, it was right that they thus worship, for this lowly Babe was none other than God the Son manifest in the flesh!

Then turn to the book of Revelation where we find angels and men joined together in the worship, adoration, and praise of this One now so highly exalted. We hear the heavenly hosts in anthem after anthem voicing praises to Him as Creator (4:8-11); as Lamb-Redeemer (5:8-14); as Saviour (7:9-17); as King-Judge (11:15-19); as Judge again (15:1-8); as Saviour-Bridegroom (19:1-6); as Glorious King of Kings and Lord of Lords (19:11-16); and as God over all in eternal blessing (Rev. 21:3, 4). Read their anthem, learn to sing them, magnificent they are! This Lord became flesh and dwelt among us. He it is who gave Himself for our sins and rose again to secure our justification; He it is who pleads for us before the throne and shall some day soon come for us to take us to be with Him forever.

Hallelujah! What a Saviour Who can take a poor lost sinner, Lift him from the miry clay, And set him free.

I will ever tell the story, Shouting Glory, Glory, Glory, Hallelujah! Jesus ransomed me!

Should there be one reading these words who has never believed on Him and received Him as your Saviour and Lord, I urge you to do so now! For His promise is, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37b).

Are You Ready?

(Continued from page 1)

Romans he said: "So as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also." Paul longed to go to Rome, the chief capital of the world at that time, strong with military strength, great with organization, powerful with equipment for its day.

Paul was not ashamed to preach the Gospel in the seven-hilled city of Rome where Virgil sang, where great orators had discoursed to the delight of the people. He was ready to stand in Rome and preach the Gospel, because, said he, "I am not ashamed of this gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth." It is the Gospel universal. It is for the Jew. It is for the Gentile. It is for the philosopher. It is for the dullard. It is for everybody—a Gospel universal, adequate and all-sufficient. Concerning the Gospel of Christ, Paul could say: "It is a tried gospel. It is a tested gospel. It is a corroborated gospel. I have passed it through the crucible of my own life. I am ready to live for it, and I am ready to die for it. It is the hope of mankind, and wherever anybody will listen to me, I am ready to talk about this gospel."

Paul had the right view of the divine, dynamic, transforming Gospel of the Son of God. He believed

that nothing else would suffice for a needy world.

Men need help above themselves. Men must have help which comes down from God out of Heaven. Ethics will not suffice, important as that science of human behavior is in its proper place. Statesmanship is not sufficient. Secular education will not take care of our needs. The stain of sin is on every life. The bewildering, poisoning power of sin is in every life. Paul said: "I know a remedy. I know a physician. I know a helper adequate for the ills of men, and I am ready to go anywhere in the world, at any cost to myself, to preach this gospel to the world." This is the right attitude for every Christian.

I saw the other day where England asked one of her great men, "How soon can you be ready to go out for England in this great world struggle?" (this sermon preached during World War I). He had many irons in the fire, but he said: "I can be ready in twenty-four hours." I saw where a Moravian mission secretary said to a volunteer: "One of our men has fallen at the front. How soon can you go out to take his place?" The volunteer replied: "Just as soon as I get my boots back from the cobbler. He is mending them now, then I will be ready to go."

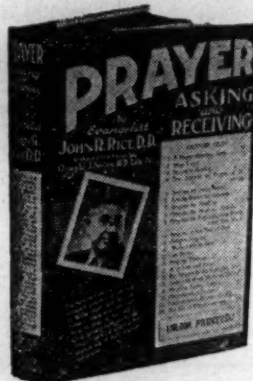
(Continued on page 7)

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Some people ridicule the thought of new year resolutions, having discovered how quickly resolutions can be broken. Yet God surely has given times for beginning again. For the Christian, there can be a very happy time of reconsecration at the beginning of a new year. Let these books help you to find daily joy and blessing at the foot of the Saviour!

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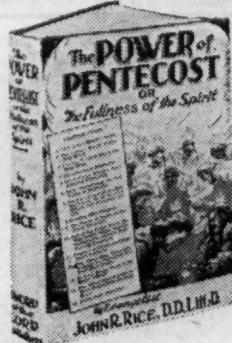
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Are You Ready?

(Continued from page 6)

I am ready." That is the right spirit for God's people. "So as much as in me is, I am ready to go to Rome. I am ready to go anywhere. I am ready to go with the odds all against me, with difficulties and distresses graver than man or angel can describe awaiting me. I am ready to go anywhere that Christ wants me to go." That was Paul's spirit. Was there ever,

in all the tides of time, another who quite matched him?

Ready to Help Troubled, Sinning Mixed Up Christians

Paul said again, in writing to the church at Corinth, "I am ready to go and help you in the difficult situation that has come to your church." Read the story and you will find that the church had in it difficulties that shamed the church. There in the church of Corinth they had no pastor, and they had an upheaving and a distraught and terrible situation. Having learned of the unhappy conditions which had arisen in the Corinthian church which he had organized, Paul wrote a very frank letter in which he offered to visit them at Corinth. He indicated that he was ready to come and speak some plain words to them. He never ceased to have the pastor's heart toward all the churches he founded on his missionary tours. By letters and by return visits he sought to help all the churches, especially so when they were pastorless—as was the church at Corinth when he wrote, saying: "I am ready to come and help you out of this difficult situation."

How terrible it is that one wrong life can upset a whole group of lives! The Bible says: "One sinner destroyeth much good." It also says: "Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, made Israel to sin." One life can have an infection that can be passed on to the hurt of many lives. Let some portion of the body be infected and the whole body is imperiled. These infections may come in various ways. Sometimes they are doctrinal. Sometimes a person may steer away from the sound doctrine and he or she is on the toboggan from that very instant. The Bible says, "Hold fast the form of sound words." You cannot play fast and loose with the truth. If you begin that, presently the infection will spread, the hurt will go near and far in its corroding and enervating and injurious influence. When some prominent and forceful

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Christian and church member gets off the right track, the results may be tragically upsetting to the cause of Christ in a whole community.

Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, his best loved church, the church that was most considerate of him, that did more beautiful and thoughtful things for the grand old soldier of Christ than did any other church—and said: "I tell you again what I have told you before, I tell you now, even with weeping, some of you so walk as to become the enemies of the cross of Christ." They claimed to be Christ's friends, and to be marching under His banner; but, as Paul saw them, they were carrying the baggage of Satan and their lives were contrary to their profession.

The bad example and harmful influence of these enemies of the cross of Christ, there in Paul's beloved church at Philippi, made a very difficult situation for all concerned. Therefore, Paul says: "I am ready to come to help you in your church which is distraught by evil influences among yourselves. I am ready to help you. The duty may be difficult and disagreeable, but you must meet it; you must not be quiet; you must not be silent."

The sin of silence may be just as grievous as the sin of speech, the sin of omission just as grievous as the sin of commission. People are sometimes turned grievously aside by the sin of omission, to their hurt and the hurt of many others who sooner or later may be involved.

Paul was urging upon the Philippians just what, in another letter, he urged the Galatians when he said: "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burden, and so fulfil the law of Christ."

Here is a great field for recovering lives that are drifting. Christians are to recover, reclaim, win back, restore lives that are wrong in God's sight, in the church or out, reclaiming Christians who are adrift, or those who are not Christians at all. Reclaim them! Win them! Restore them and do it in the right spirit, the spirit of meekness, the spirit of compassion, the spirit of Christ. Paul volunteered to help the Philippian Christians fulfil the law of Christ by bearing the burden imposed upon the church by its erring members.

Ready to Suffer for Christ

And then he said another word: "I am ready to suffer for Christ's sake." Friends told him that if he went up to Jerusalem, he would be bound and imprisoned and scourged and beaten, and he said: "What mean ye to weep, and to break my heart? I am ready not only to be bound in Jerusalem, I am ready to die there for the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I do not shun suffering. I am ready to do it. Bonds and imprisonment await me wherever I go; I have no complaint, I have chosen for the will of God to be expressed in my life, and if I can express it part of the time in jail, the jail is what I ask for. If I can express it part of the time by preaching to a great company on Mars' Hill, I will do that. I am ready to suffer for Christ." Oh, how wonderful was the spirit of this blessed apostle of Christ!

Paul preached throughout Asia Minor. Paul preached throughout Europe. Paul preached the gospel in world-famed Greece, poor, bludgeoned, bleeding Greece about which we read so often in our newspapers these days. His constant declaration was: "I am ready to preach the gospel anywhere. I am ready to go anywhere, and the whippings they will give me and the jails they will put me in, all that will not deter me. I am

ready to suffer unto death for the name of Christ."

No cheap religion is going to win the world. The friends of Christ everywhere will have to live their religion more heroically and more sacrificially if the world is to be won for Christ. No cheap religion is going to win the world.

The early Christians overcame Satan. Do you remember how? The last book in the Bible tells us in one sentence: "They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto death." No cheap religion will ever win the world. We must be ready to suffer for Christ!

But if you are going to suffer awhile for Christ's sake, you who are in this church or who are listening in radio-land, you must remember that you can glorify Christ in that suffering. As you lie upon your couch and turn your face to the wall when sleep is gone, and pray for the coming morning, you are to remember that there is some great, wide, gracious, far-seeing plan which God is weaving out of it all—a robe of blessedness better than the days of your strong health. Ready to suffer for Christ! Mind how you behave when suffering comes!

"Beloved," said the Apostle Peter, "think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you, but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's suffering; that when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." Paul expressed the same thought in II Corinthians 4:17: "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." Heaven itself will be deeper and richer because of the pain and the tears and the trials that we undergo down here on earth in the flesh.

Paul said: "I am ready to suffer anywhere that Christ wants me to suffer. I am ready. I am wholly abandoned to Him. If I can do more by being in jail, then let me go to jail. If I can do more by being cuffed and beaten and scourged and maltreated, if by going through that I can best help the cause of Christ forward, then the will of God be done." That attitude is not just weak sentimentality, it is not perfumed poetry; it is Christ-like heroism, it is the very essence of the Gospel, it is rugged strength suitable to make foundation stones for the kingdom of God.

Ready, Thank God, to Die!

In the fourth chapter of Second Timothy we come upon another splendid "I am ready" saying of Paul: "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing."

From this grand old soldier of the faith each one of us should learn to say and mean it: "I am ready to go across the stream separating the now from eternity; and if the seas shall be storm-swept, I have a Pilot who will see me across. If the night be dark, I have one with me who is the Light of the world. If my strength shall fail, my God is my strength and my help and my portion for He has said: 'I will not leave you nor forsake you. You need not worry about how nor where nor when your departure will be. Just leave the time and the summons of it to me, and I will take care of it in the right time and in the right way.' " Oh, that every one of us may be able to leave all in God's hands!

I talked with a strong man a few hours ago, hard by the gateway of death. He said, "It looked like I was just getting ready to live, and now I have the sentence of death upon me." I said to him: "If you could talk to the great Saviour who died for us all, and He should say to you: 'You can do more now for me, by waiting a little while on this side of the flood in the right spirit and then crossing it without a sigh or a fear, you can do more for men than if you were a well, strong

man,' what would you say?" He waited for awhile, then said with a sob, "I hope I could say, 'Thy will be done: Thy will be done. God's will be done.' I am ready to go when He wants me to go, and while I wait I want it to be for His glory."

Do you know how George Whitefield died? He preached as no other man in his day. The fields were filled with people to hear him. He was a mighty preacher. The people followed him and loved him. One day he preached in the afternoon and until late in the evening and the crowd followed him from the field to his home. He went upstairs to rest and as he climbed the stairs, he carried a candle in his hand to light his way. They could see him, and they pressed into the house and all around it and he preached until that candle burned down to its socket. Then he lay down upon his bed and was quickly gone. God took him. How glorious to go like that! Just to preach on until the last!

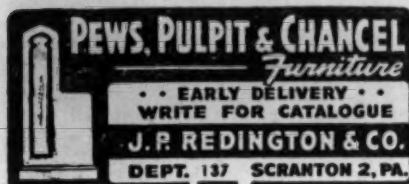
Paul was ready to preach the Gospel of Christ. Paul was ready to serve anywhere and everywhere for Christ. Paul was ready to suffer for the sake of Christ. Paul was ready to die and pass on, to live with Christ forever. Because he was wholly dedicated and ever ready to do God's will, wherever it led and whatever it cost, Paul greatly influenced for good his own and all succeeding centuries.

Are you ready? Oh, my fellow Christians, are you ready to live and love and serve and sacrifice and suffer if need be, in order that Christ may be glorified and His cause be set forward by you? Are you ready and willing to do God's will, cost what it may, believing deep down in your heart that His will is ever wise and best? Are you ready for Christ to have His way with you, since His way is ever in harmony with the Father's will?

As for myself, I can truthfully say that long ago I settled it that Christ could have His way with me. God forbid that I should speak boastfully about a decision so vital and destiny-determining! If I know my own heart, I humbly say with Paul, "I am ready." Yes, I am willing for God to use me in any way He sees fit. I would not deliberately withhold from Him anything or any service which He requires of me. For many years my chiefest joy and my deepest satisfaction has been to find out God's will for me and then do my best to carry out His will. I well know that all too often I have come short and failed. On many occasions, I am sure, the Master must have been disappointed in me because of my lack of understanding and my poor performance. But I think He knew that in my heart was the readiness to do His will. Perhaps that is why His patience and forgiving mercy and sustaining grace have been granted unto me so generously, and unfailingly. If I know anything, I know that I want Christ to have His way with me in this world and in the world to come.

And what about you, dear friends, who are not professed Christians, who have never accepted and confessed Christ as Saviour, Lord and Master? No doubt you have thought, and even intended, that some day you would accept and confess and follow Christ. But thus far you have postponed the decision, you have put the matter off, you have procrastinated, you have said, "I'll wait for a more convenient season." Are you ready now to end your delay, your indecision, your procrastination, your pushing of Christ aside, your neglect of your own soul's salvation? Are you ready to give the "yes" of your mind, your heart and your will to Christ? Without Christ as your Saviour and Lord you are not ready to live, you are not ready to die, and certainly you are not ready to stand before the judgment bar of God. If you would be ready to make the most of this life and the life to come, then I beseech you to accept and confess Christ now and begin from this hour to follow and obey and serve and love Him forever. Then, indeed, will you be able to say with Paul, "I am ready."

(From the book SERMONS FROM PAUL, by George W. Truett, published by Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Michigan. Used by permission. May be ordered from THE SWORD OF THE LORD, Wheaton, Illinois, Price \$2.50.)



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A well-known Christian writer tells how she would clutch her mother's hand and trudge through the tall meadow grass to a stile where they would watch the sunset while her mother, as the last crimson streak was dying in the West, would sing

*'For ever with the Lord;
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Turning, her mother would say, "Sing, sing, you get nearer heaven singing."

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The Unpardonable Sin

(Continued from page 1)

This sin can never be forgiven in the next world, but then no sin has forgiveness after death. The unpardonable sin is different, in that one may cross the deadline while still alive, may pass into the realm of the damned, may pass forever beyond mercy while yet alive in this world! How terrible this sin that has no pardon, no repentance, no forgiveness!

Powerful reasons impel me to write on this subject. First of all, many people think they have committed the unpardonable sin who have not. I have known numbers of Christian people who feared that they had committed the unpardonable sin, and were in torment of mind. They were all mistaken. A saved person cannot commit the unpardonable sin. For how can one whose sins are already pardoned and under Christ's blood commit the unpardonable sin? As we proceed with an exposition of the Scriptures on this subject, it will become apparent, I believe, that no born-again child of God can commit the unpardonable sin.

And there are lost people, no doubt, who think they have committed the unpardonable sin, and therefore feel that they have no chance for salvation. They do not seek God because they think it would be in vain. They do not repent and ask Christ for salvation because they want a feeling which they do not have, and therefore suppose that they have somehow driven away the Spirit of God and crossed the boundaries of mercy. Yet if such sinners want to be saved, they may be saved. For Christ's invitation still stands: "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." It is still true that one who comes to Christ will not be cast out.

Many errors have been taught concerning this sin that has no forgiveness. We hope, by careful study of the Word of God under the leading of the Holy Spirit, to correct those errors. There are those who say that there could be no unpardonable sin today, but I

believe the Word of God will make it clear that they are mistaken. Men today do commit the unpardonable sin. There are those who believe that the unpardonable sin is simply some blasphemy uttered with the lips, some profanity thought of in the mind. But that is not true. The unpardonable sin is not simply ascribing the works of God to Satan. It is not simply profane words or thoughts. Nor is the unpardonable sin simply rejection of Christ. It is more than that. It is such an insulting and definite repulse to the Holy Spirit who convicts a lost sinner that the Spirit calls no more. It is, after great light and many calls, a final rejection of Christ in which one sets himself against Christ and is left in his sins, unconverted, unwarned, and so lost forever. This unpardonable sin can be committed only by a lost sinner who is convicted of his sins and who deliberately, after great enlightenment, turns the convicting Holy Spirit forever away from his heart by a definite decision, a permanent, once-for-all decision, rejecting Christ, and so blasphemously and insultingly turning against the Holy Spirit who warns at the heart's door.

Yes, the unpardonable sin can be committed now. Any sinner who has heard the Gospel, who has been deeply convicted, who has been enlightened as to his sin and his need of the Saviour is in deadly danger of committing the sin that has no forgiveness.

Some person you know may have already crossed the boundaries of mercy and entered forever the realm of the doomed and damned! Some person who is not troubled, who neither knows nor cares what he has done, may have driven the Holy Spirit away forever. You will not know who he is, nor will I. But that person is as certainly doomed forever as if the iron doors of Hell had clanged shut behind him and he had already entered the torments of the lake of fire!

How awful this subject! How earnestly ought we to warn sinners of their danger! And how seriously ought each lost sinner to consider the folly and danger of longer rejecting Christ.

Let us now show from the Scripture that there is an unpardonable sin which men commit today; let us show what kind of a sin this is so men may avoid it, and so people may know whether they have committed it or not. Then let us make clear the results of the unpardonable sin and give solemn warnings about it.

I. There Is an Unpardonable Sin and Some in This Age Commit That Sin

There are some Bible teachers who say that none can commit the unpardonable sin in this age because they believe that the unpardonable sin is only possible in the face of obvious miracles, perhaps miracles like that of the Lord Jesus when He cast out devils and worked miracles, when the Pharisees said, "This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils," in Matthew 12:24. When Jesus spoke about "the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost" which shall never be forgiven, in our text above, He inferred that these Pharisees committed that sin. And, supposing that it was the outward words which carried the unpardonable sin, the Scofield Reference Bible over Matthew 12:31,32 gives this heading:

"The Unpardonable Sin: Ascribing to Satan the Works of the Spirit."

Then the learned John A. Broadus, in his commentary on Matthew (The American Commentary on the New Testament) said:

"The conditions under which this unpardonable sin of blasphemy against the Spirit of God is committed are (1) that there shall be a work manifestly supernatural, unmistakably the work of God and not of man, and (2) that one shall, in determined and malignant opposition, insultingly ascribe to Satan that which he knows to be the work of God. Now are these condi-

tions ever fulfilled, except in an age of miracles?"

Dr. Broadus believed that this is not the age of miracles, and that therefore sinners could not, in this age, commit the unpardonable sin.

I think he is wrong in supposing that obvious miracles of God never happen in this age, but that is beside the point. But I believe that Dr. Broadus erred first in supposing that the unpardonable sin is simply ascribing to Satan that which one knows to be the work of God.

The beloved Dr. Torrey, to whom I am indebted more than to any other Bible teacher or preacher, believed that men might now, in this or any other age, commit the unpardonable sin, but he still defined the unpardonable sin as knowingly, deliberately, ascribing to Satan the works of the Holy Spirit.

But did Jesus refer to the words of the Pharisees when He solemnly warned that they committed the sin that has no forgiveness? Read the passage in Matthew 12:25-37 carefully and see.

That passage starts out, "And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them . . ."

What the Pharisees really said was, "This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils." But Jesus did not accuse that these words were the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit which could never be forgiven. Rather he knew their thoughts and said that the thoughts which were back of their words were the unpardonable sin.

And after the warning of the unforgivable sin in verses 31 and 32, Jesus continues saying:

"Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

To these Pharisees Jesus said, "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." So Jesus judged them, not by their wicked words that came out of their mouths, but out of the abundance of wickedness in their hearts. "Jesus knew their thoughts," and that is why He could plainly tell them that they committed an unpardonable sin.

With their mouths they said that Jesus was possessed of the Devil, that Satan's power was on Him, but in their hearts their sin was far worse. They said to themselves, "These miracles are certainly from God. Men, unaided, cannot work these supernatural works. Jesus must be what He claims to be. But I hate Him! I will not trust Him! I will not turn from my sins! I will not accept Him as the Messiah, the Christ, and as my Saviour!" Deeply moved, enlightened, convicted in their hearts, these Pharisees came to the deliberate and final conclusion: they would reject Christ, once and for all, miracles or no miracles, signs or no signs. Even though he gave evidence of being all that He claimed to be, they hated Him, despised Him, rejected Him, and that finally. And the unpardonable sin was not in their mouths, but in their hearts.

But let us consider evidence that the unpardonable sin may be committed in all ages, including this age.

1. The Scriptures Clearly Indicate That Some Committed the Unpardonable Sin Before the Flood, Some During the Life of Christ, Some in the Apostolic Age, and Some Will Commit the Unpardonable Sin in the Tribulation Time.

A great spiritual crisis came on the earth before the flood. "And God saw that the wickedness of

man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them."

That was the state of affairs; insufferable wickedness on the part of men, and a holy and determined anger on the part of God. Now how would these things affect the work of the Holy Spirit in calling and convicting and saving sinners?

We read the answer in Genesis 6:3. "And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years."

Solemnly God warned, "My spirit shall not always strive with man." God set a period 120 years ahead when His Spirit would no longer strive with the unconverted who lived before the flood. Man must learn that he is only flesh, that he cannot forever trifle with God. God's spirit would withdraw, would cease to call, would leave men forever unconverted and forever damned and unforgiven.

It seems clear to me that the Scripture here teaches that these wicked sinners before the flood committed the unpardonable sin.

We do not read that there were obvious miracles which these wicked sinners credited to Satan. We do not read that they said certain blasphemous things. No, but they did continue in unspeakable wickedness in the heart and they did strive against the Spirit of God who warned them and convicted them under the preaching of Noah.

Again it is clear from the words of Jesus in Matthew 12:31,32, that those who heard Him were in danger of committing the unpardonable sin; yes, more than that, He inferred that these wicked Pharisees had, in their hearts, committed that sin already, and that out of that wicked, final blasphemous decision of the heart came these insincere and wicked words. So when Christ was on earth, men could and did commit the unpardonable sin.

Again in Hebrews 6:4-6 we have a discussion of the unpardonable sin as follows:

"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

Here it is clearly inferred that some in Paul's time who were once enlightened, had tasted of the heavenly gift, had been convicted of the Holy Spirit, fell away from that enlightenment and conviction, and so could never be renewed to the place of repentance, and would never be saved. So we may properly say that after the death of Christ and in the apostolic age people still sometimes committed this terrible sin with no forgiveness.

But the unpardonable sin is mentioned again, in Revelation 14:9-11. We should read that moving passage.

"And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whose name receiveth the mark of his name."

We learn that there will be a Beast, an Antichrist, a terrible dictator who will arise on the earth after Christ receives His saints into the air. This Antichrist will claim to be God on earth and will demand to be worshipped as God. Those who worship him will receive his mark. Those who do not worship him and do not receive his mark will be hounded, hunted, tormented, and murdered in the bloodiest age this world will ever see.

(Continued on page 9)



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Preaching, Power and Promotion

(Continued from page 2)

God knows what we have! God knows what we do not have! He never asks for what we do not have! He knows the "willing mind," i. e., what we would do if we had it.

An oriental was telling a missionary what he would do—IF! If he had \$10,000, he would give Christ \$5,000. If he owned 100 acres of land, he would give Christ 50 of those acres. The missionary said, "You have two oxen. Why not give one to Christ?" The oriental madly blurted out, "You have no right to ask that knowing I have two oxen," and he stamped off in a rage. 'Nuff said!

IV.

"I Long to Know"

"Dear Brother McCall—

I long to know if in Heaven we know what takes place on the earth? I want to know what the Scriptures say. Can you help me?

Yours sincerely,"

The Answer

Dear Friend—

Greetings!

You are not the only one interested in these matters. Thank God that is true—many are studying and inquiring. Also, you turn in the right direction, namely, the Word of God. You want to know what it says. You do not ask what somebody thinks or believes—such matter little—it is what God says.

Do the Scriptures magnify ignorance or knowledge on the part of those in Heaven? In answering that question by the Scriptures, we head toward and find the truth. We read in I Corinthians 13:9-12, "For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part

shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face; now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." We read in I John 3:2, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."

Now, do we have actual scriptural examples where this full knowledge is manifest?

Read Luke 16:19-31. Some things are here definitely set forth by Jesus. The rich man in torments sees Lazarus in Abraham's bosom. They talk back and forth. The rich man in Hades knows of his unsaved brothers back on earth. Do folks in Hades know more than folks in Paradise, folks in Heaven? Abraham knows about procedures and people on the earth, "They have Moses and the prophets, let them hear them."

I am just letting the Scriptures speak. To me it is an abomination and a sin to read things into or out of the Holy Scriptures! (Rev. 22:18, 19).

Moses and Elias knew some things in Heaven—when to leave for earth—about the "decease" of Jesus, etc.—See Luke 9:27-36, Mark 9:1-13, and Matthew 17:1-13. What is magnified, ignorance or knowledge? You answer it to your own satisfaction. Accept the Scriptures—they are RIGHT!

In Revelation 6:9-11 we see some saved who have died and are in Heaven who speak of things on the earth.

God's Word speaks of witnesses (Heb. 11) who compass us about—"Wherefore seeing we also are

compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1).

Jesus in Luke 15:6, 7, 10 speaks of joy in Heaven over one saved on the earth—how do they rejoice if they do not "know"?

Genesis 28:12, Hebrews 1:4, Psalm 34:7 suggest a ministry of angels between earth and Heaven.

Is God's family in Heaven indifferent while His own heart is afflicted in all our afflictions down here? "In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old" (Isa. 63:9. See also Psa. 22:24).

Are the saved by Jesus in Heaven concerned "while Christ o'er sinners weeps," see also Hebrews 7:25.

Dear friend, these Scriptures suggest one answer to your question.

I think Heaven has lost much appeal to the lost and saved because too many preach a "stiff," somewhat staid "Heaven, with a funeral lily as the emblem." The Lily of the Valley means more to me!

To me, Heaven is Christ, the Father, life, love, song, music, worship, serving God, light, plenty, compassion, knowledge, beauty, sinlessness, etc., etc.!

I hope, not I, but the Scriptures have helped you!

Yours in Him we love,
D. A. McCall

P. S. Always by faith we can leave with God what He does not reveal to us, or those things we cannot understand at a particular stage in our growth.

V.

Help Get Out The Gospel

The following testimonies come regarding the blessing of THE

The Unpardonable Sin

(Continued from page 8)

But what of those who take the mark of the Beast and worship him? We are plainly told that they have crossed the deadline. They will never be saved. Everyone of them is doomed to Hell. "If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God . . . and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone" forever.

Yes, every person who comes to the clear, final decision to deny Christ and worship the Antichrist will have committed the unpardonable sin, and will have passed beyond redemption. Every such person will have crossed the deadline and will be already doomed, forever lost, while yet alive. So we may be sure that the unpardonable sin will occur in the future, as it has in the past. In every age those who are greatly enlightened and convicted and facing Jesus Christ turn resolutely away from Him and insult the Holy Spirit who warns them are on the verge of committing the sin that has no forgiveness.

2. Bible Examples Leave the Impression That Man May in Any Age So Reject the Light, So Turn From God, So Resist the Spirit of God Who Calls Them As to Commit the Unpardonable Sin.

Pharaoh of the time of Moses seems to have committed the un-

SWORD OF THE LORD in various hearts and lives:

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From a doctor in Michigan comes this word, "Dear Brother McCall: Greetings in Jesus' Name! Thank you for sending me the reminder. The work of THE SWORD OF THE LORD is great and blessed and deserves our hearty cooperation with prayer and gifts." A check for several dollars for the building fund, also for some subscriptions, was enclosed.

From Alabama comes this word, "Dear Sir: Enclosed one dollar for building fund. God is sure using Dr. John R. Rice's book on *Prayer*. It is a blessing to all who read it. One could never be the same after reading it. That book causes a person to grow up."

From Illinois comes the following, "Dear Dr. McCall: I have been reading in THE SWORD OF THE LORD your articles on the new building for the SWORD, and how it might be paid for by the readers of the SWORD. I have enclosed some money for that purpose. Dr. McCall, in reading Dr. Rice's book on *Prayer*, I find that Dr. Rice states faith is a gift of God and that we should pray for increased faith. I believe this. I am praying that God will bestow upon me a much greater faith. I would like to request your prayer in this matter. Did not Jesus say 'If two agree as touching any one thing', it would be done?"

These are just a few of the many letters giving the blessings that have come to individuals and families across the nation. They get a blessing from the reading of THE SWORD OF THE LORD. They get a blessing from the preaching of the gospel by Dr. Rice and the staff members of THE SWORD. They get a blessing in THE SWORD OF THE LORD revival conferences. They get a blessing in reading the books put out by the Sword of the Lord Book Club. They get a blessing in praying for all these persons and causes and in giving some of the Lord's money for His work in these areas. You might do likewise and also get a blessing. Doxology!

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pardonable sin. Warning after warning he received. Sign after sign, miracle after miracle came upon him to convict his heart, to turn him from his course.

The One who sent Moses to Pharaoh was the "I Am." But Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I am." So in the preaching of Moses, in the signs and wonders and rebukes, Pharaoh faced Christ. However dimly he may have seen the theology, the crisis experience faced him as sharply as it ever faced any Christ-rejecting sinner. And Pharaoh temporized and excused himself and asked for more time, all the while fighting God in his heart until at last he came to a definite conclusion. He would hear no more of this matter! He drove Moses and Aaron from his presence. At last Pharaoh said to Moses, "Get thee from me, take heed to thyself, see my face no more; for in that day that thou seest my face thou shalt die." And it is significant that Moses said, "Thou hast spoken well, I will see thy face again no more." God's Spirit called no more at Pharaoh's heart's door! Raging in his heart against God, Pharaoh chased the Israelites through the Red Sea and was destroyed by the waters returning to their accustomed place. I believe that Pharaoh committed the unpardonable sin. I believe that as Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and hardened, and hardened, and was finally set forever and finally against God, so today sinners may harden themselves against Christ and be hardened by one rejection of light, and by another refusal to repent until there comes a final insulting and blasphemous reaction of the heart against the call of the Holy Spirit and a sinner commits the unpardonable sin and crosses the deadline beyond forgiveness.

Did Judas Iscariot commit the unpardonable sin? I think he did. The Bible does not say. But we know that Judas heard all the wonderful teaching of Jesus, saw the miracles which He did. He must have been deeply moved and convicted in his heart. He must have intended to turn from his sin and take Christ as Saviour. We do not know all that went on in Judas' heart during those three and one-half years of the ministry of Jesus. But we know that he did not trust Christ as Saviour. Jesus said of him, "But there are some of you that believe not." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him (John 6:64). We know that all along he was a devil (John 6:70), unconverted.

At the same time, Judas was so moral and outwardly upright in character that he was made treasurer and carried the money bag. And when Jesus foretold that one would betray, nobody accused Judas, nobody suspected him. Judas must have meant to do right. He must have made holy resolves. But he waited, he temporized, he delayed. He turned down the Saviour in his heart, though outwardly he was a disciple. And at long last, facing Jesus across the table at the last supper and dipping his bread in the same sop, Judas made the final decision. His character hardened. He balanced no more between light and darkness, between accepting Christ and rejecting Him. He cast the die, once and for all, against Christ. Satan entered into him, and he went out that night to make his wicked bargain and betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. I believe that Judas committed the unpardonable sin.

And though other people do not see Jesus in the flesh, they deal just as literally with Jesus Christ. They choose Him or reject Him, they love Him or hate Him, and after great enlightenment, and after much wooing by the Holy Spirit, they may finally insult the Spirit of God and turn against this wooing, pleading representative of the Lord Jesus and harden their hearts forever against Christ. Men do today, sometimes, say a final "no" to Jesus Christ, as did Judas.

And what about that Antichrist, that Beast who will rise and rule

(Continued on page 10)

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The Unpardonable Sin

(Continued from page 9)

and ruin in the brief but horrible Great Tribulation? I make no issue of his case, but I believe that he, too, will come to such a clear understanding of right and wrong, and choose wrong; that he, too, will face the claims of Jesus Christ and utterly, finally reject them while still alive. I believe that he, too, will be so congealed, so settled in character, so pointed away from God, that he will pass forever the place of repentance and cross the deadline of mercy. In fact, the Bible seems to make both Pharaoh and Judas types of the coming Antichrist. And if those who take the mark of the Beast thereby commit the unpardonable sin and doom themselves forever to Hell, how much more will the Man of Sin himself cross the deadline!

These instances and more in the Bible indicate to me that the unpardonable sin is such a sin as any man or woman might commit after great enlightenment, after many calls are refused, after many pleadings of the Holy Spirit are mocked and resisted and insulted.

3. The Danger of the Unpardonable Sin Seems to Be Written in the Hearts of Men By the Spirit of God.

Dr. B. H. Carroll, founder of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, an eminent theologian, calls attention to the fact that millions of people have been led to fear that they might commit a sin which is unpardonable. Uncounted multitudes have received a solemn warning in the heart and conscience that they dare not go too far in sin, too far in rejecting Christ, or they would be forever beyond the pale of mercy. And Dr. Carroll drew the conclusion, which I believe has great force, that the spiritual impressions of such multitudes of people are not to be ignored. God's Holy Spirit seems to have warned multitudes of people, in all ages, that He would not strive forever, that they should heed Him at once, and repent and be saved at once, before the time for forgiveness should be forever past.

And as lost sinners have felt warned in the heart concerning the possibility of the unpardonable sin, so Spirit-filled men of God have felt led to preach on the danger of the unpardonable sin. I speak now not of fanatics, but of the most solid and serious and sensible of godly men. I speak now of B. H. Carroll, of George W. Truett, of R. A. Torrey, of D. L. Moody, of the great evangelists, of the godliest pastors. Despite all that the cloistered theologians might say, preachers with a burning heart have felt impelled by the Spirit of God to warn men of the unpardonable sin. I believe it to be presumptuous, then, if we suppose that such a sin could not be committed in this age or in any age.

4. All Who Die Unconverted Do Cross the Deadline. God's Holy Spirit Does Cease to Call. Such Sinners Are Forever Past Repentance. So What Happens to Millions at Death May Happen to Some Before Death

Do you say that the unpardonable sin cannot happen in this generation? But it does happen to every man, woman and responsible child who dies unconverted, unrepentant, without personal faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour! People do cross a deadline. For there is no pardon for sin after death.

And we should honestly face the fact that before God lets any lost man or woman die, He decides to give them up. The death of a lost sinner never occurs unbeknownst to God. No sinner ever enters Hell until God decides to allow it. And that means that every person who dies unconverted has turned down whatever light came to him, has rejected Christ as far as he knew about Christ, and has been turned over to Satan.

Now why should we suppose that every lost sinner at death, or before death, commits the unpardonable sin, and that no one else

commits that sin before death?

Make no mistake, the issue is the same with every lost sinner. He must repent or refuse to repent. He must choose between his own sinful way and God's way. He must turn for mercy or he must hold on to his sin. He must accept Christ or reject Him. That is exactly the issue over which every lost sinner goes to Hell. That is exactly the same issue over which some men commit the unpardonable sin. Men who reject Christ and die unconverted today go to Hell just the same as they did in Old Testament times, just the same as they did during the life of Christ, and just the same as they did in the apostolic age. And I believe it is proper for us to believe that the Holy Spirit who ceased to strive with the wicked sinner before the flood, now sometimes ceases to strive with a sinner, too. I believe that those mentioned in Hebrews 6:4-6, who turned back from great enlightenment and conviction so that they could no more be brought to the place of repentance, are just like some today who have been equally moved by the Holy Spirit, equally enlightened. They, too, have tasted of the good Word of God. And if they shall fall away from this place of enlightenment and conviction, if they shall drive away the Holy Spirit from their heart's door when He seeks to get them saved, I believe that it will be impossible for them to repent, impossible to be saved.

Yes, there is an unpardonable sin, and today lost sinners are in danger of committing it.

II. What Kind of Sin Is This Unpardonable Sin?

We have defined this sin, but I invite you to think further with me about what the sin is and what it means.

1. First, the Unpardonable Sin Is a Sin of Christ-Rejection

I do not mean that everyone who rejects Christ, then and there commits the unpardonable sin. I do not mean that one decision against Christ, or two, or three, make up the unpardonable sin. But I do mean that the rebellion of heart which causes the unpardonable sin is a rebellion against Jesus Christ. The issue between God and the sinner, when and if a sinner ever commits the unpardonable sin, is the issue of surrender to Jesus Christ and accepting Him as Saviour. Men have other sins, but they do not commit the unpardonable sin while they consider whether they shall drink or not drink, or whether they shall curse or not curse, or whether they shall go to church or not go to church.

Some other incident may be involved. With Pharaoh there was the incidental issue of whether he should let the children of Israel go out from Egypt. With Judas there was the incidental issue as to whether he could get cash for betraying Jesus. But the fundamental question between the sinner and God is whether or not he will repent of his sins and take Christ as Saviour. A man may reject Jesus Christ because of his love for liquor, but he does not go to Hell because he drank. He goes to Hell because he rejected Christ. Judas did not go to Hell because he accepted thirty pieces of silver for leading the soldiers to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. He went to Hell because he rejected Christ. He would not repent, would not turn to Christ in his heart, would not surrender to the Saviour. Pharaoh went to Hell, not over the single incident of refusing to let Israel go. In fact, the Scripture indicates that he already had so decided against God that God had determined to make an example of his sin, and so God brought occasion for the hardening of Pharaoh's heart and led him on to his death. But Pharaoh had already wickedly turned against God, rejected the light he had, determined to go on in his own way and in his own sins.

So it is about the unpardonable sin. Love of sin may lead a man

finally, desperately, to drive away the Holy Spirit and set himself forever against God. But the unpardonable sin is that once-for-all blasphemous rejection of the Spirit's wooing.

The unpardonable sin is a sin against the Holy Spirit, but it is against the Holy Spirit who is speaking for Jesus Christ and urging the sinner to turn to Christ and depend upon Christ. The Pharisees who said that Jesus cast out devils by Beelzebub, and we infer, committed the unpardonable sin, blasphemed the Holy Spirit, it is true. But it was in relation to the claims of Jesus Christ. Their hearts hated the Lord Jesus, rejected the light about Him, would not give up their own way and their own sins. Their inward blasphemy and struggle was against the Holy Spirit, but only because the Holy Spirit pressed upon them the deity of Jesus Christ and His claim to their love and faith and surrender. Mark it down that the unpardonable sin is a sin of Christ-rejection, a sin of unbelief in Christ.

And is not that what the Scripture teaches in John 3:18-20?

"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved."

One who trusts in Christ is not condemned. Therefore one who trusts in Christ has not committed the unpardonable sin. But one who has not trusted in Christ is condemned. Surely it is clear that the condemnation of a sinner depends on his rejection of Christ, not on other sins. And to trust in Christ as Saviour makes certain that one does not commit the unpardonable sin.

Note that the passage above makes quite clear the moral wickedness of rejection of Christ. One who will not trust Christ is condemned already, because he hates the light, he does not want the truth. He does not want his own sin to be exposed because he does not want to leave it! And that wickedness in rejecting Christ may mount up until it dyes and congeals and fixes forever the heart against God. The sinner who so wickedly turns from Christ to hide his own sin and to hug his own sin in his heart, has started a course which may soon overwhelm him and cast his lot with the damned, the unforgivable.

Do not forget it; the unpardonable sin is a sin of Christ-rejection, a sin of unbelief of Christ.

2. The Unpardonable Sin Is a Sin Against Great Light and Long-Extended Mercy

I think we may safely say that no one ever committed the unpardonable sin the first time he heard about Jesus. Thank God for the loving mercy with which God offers salvation again and again and again to men! I was won to Christ when I was nine years old. My father even then thought me too young to be saved. But I well remember that the blessed Holy Spirit had been running me down for five years. I remember that within two weeks after my fourth birthday, I was deeply convicted by the Scripture about the birth of Christ that "there was no room for them in the inn." I began to see how wicked were the hearts of men. As far as I now can remember, that was the first Scripture that ever impressed itself upon my heart. I remember later how my mother sang sweet songs of Zion, and I wept and could not explain my tears. I remember how I lied to my mother when I was five years old, and she rebuked me with tears, and I wondered whether God would kill me then and send me to Hell, or give me another chance! I remember how my mother called us on her death-bed and made us promise to meet her in Heaven. I remember the counsel and prayers of a godly Sunday School teacher when I was eight. Yes, God called me long before I was saved, even so young.

And God calls every man and woman, every person who comes into the world, in one way or another. The unceasing mercy of God—how boundless, how measureless it is!

But, we learn from many Scriptures that light often offered and continually rejected, may bring the judgment of God.

Who commits the unpardonable sin? It is "those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost [or gone along with the Holy Ghost, convicting them], And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come," who may commit the unpardonable sin, as we are told in Hebrews 6:4-6. But what of these, so greatly enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift but did not eat, who were convicted by the Holy Ghost as Paul was. When God's Spirit deals with the heart about sin, then that mercy and pardon are available if needed.

So one who has driven away the Spirit of God and passed the boundaries of mercy cannot repent. As the Scriptures tell us in Hebrew 6:4-6, it is "impossible... to renew them again unto repentance..." They will not repent, so they cannot be saved.

The character of the one who has committed the unpardonable sin is set against Christ. A man may still pay honest debts. A wife may still be true to her husband. A student may make good grades in school. Outward relations with other people may be commendable. But as far as trusting Christ for salvation is concerned, the soul of the sinner who has rejected Christ too long is set forever. It will not change. That is why God cannot forgive and will not forgive.

3. God's Spirit Does Not Call the Forsaken Sinner

"My spirit shall not always strive with man." What a sad and frightful warning! If God's Spirit does not call, men will not repent. If God's Spirit does not call, men will not trust in Christ. If God's Spirit does not call, the sinner cannot be saved and will not be saved.

What about the promises of God? Did not God say, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isa. 1:18)? Yes, but the man who has set his heart against God forever and has insulted and

driven away the Holy Spirit will never come for the cleansing which is offered.

Does not the Scriptures say again and again that "his mercy endureth for ever"? Yes, God's mercy endures. God loves the sinner and will love the sinner even in Hell.

The psalmist said, "If I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there" (Psa.39:8).

A mother said to her son, accused and convicted of murder, "Tell me, Son. If you will confess it, the judge said he would be lenient with you. The court will give a lighter sentence if you confess the crime."

"I did not do it, Mother," the lad said. And he solemnly contended to the end that he was innocent. And the mother proudly said, "My son did not do it! I know he did not. He told me he didn't do it!"

The boy was put in the death cell. At last the chaplain came to lead him to the electric chair. The chaplain said, "Have you any word for your mother?" And the lad, facing death, said, "Tell Mother I did it. I am guilty."

The chaplain hurried to tell the mother, "He is guilty. He says he did it."

The mother turned to the chaplain and said, "Hurry, then; go back and tell him before he goes to the chair, that I love him still!"

God loves the sinner even in Hell. God would save every sinner in the world if He could on righteous terms. He is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Pet. 3:9).

It saddened the heart of Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry that many, many turned away and would not receive Him. He said unto them reproachfully, "Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." Make sure of this, that any poor sinner in the world who will turn to Jesus Christ can have mercy and forgiveness. People go to Hell only because they will not come. Even those who have committed the terrible blasphemy against the Holy Spirit are lost forever, condemned, with no hope, only because that they have so set their hearts and minds forever against Christ, and they will not come to Him, they will not repent, they will not trust Him! The unpardonable sin changes the heart of the sinner and sets it like a flint against God. But it does not change the heart of God. God loves the sinner still. God's mercy

(Continued on page 11)

Dr. Bob Jones Says:

This is being written on December 23. The spirit of Christmas is in the air. At Bob Jones University we are having our holidays; and, of course, many of our students are at home. For the last two or three days before they left, we spoke at chapel on a Christian testimony and how to win the lost to the Lord Jesus Christ. Thousands of Gospel tracts were taken by the students from the University bookstore, and we know that hundreds of people will be led to the Lord Jesus Christ by Bob Jones University boys and girls, including not only ministerial and missionary students, but, also, by the other students. We tell these young people that soul winning is the business of every Christian. As a veteran evangelist of many years of experience, I have learned that the one thing the devil is against is soul winning. He always tries to hinder Christian people in their efforts to bring the lost to the Lord Jesus Christ. Sometime ago, I heard a Baptist preacher friend of mine say, "I am opening the doors of the church. If you would like to follow the Lord in baptism, you may come forward now while we sing." It occurred to me that it is fine to follow the Lord in baptism as it is to follow Him in every other way, but I have never heard, as far as I know, any sermon on the subject "Following the Lord in Soul Winning." Yet, the Bible makes it plain that the Lord Jesus Christ came to seek and to save that which is lost. He came from Heaven to earth to die on the cross to save people. He bore the sins of a lost world in His body on that cruel tree.

He was buried, and the third day He arose from the dead. He laid down His life so lost men could be saved.

This little communication is not supposed to be a sermon, but I just want to call attention to the fact that Bob Jones University is training young people to go into different walks of life, and most of them will win the lost to the Lord Jesus Christ. You folks who pray for Bob Jones University and who invest your money in our Student Loan Endowment and Missionary Fund have a part in the soul winning campaign which Bob Jones University has put on not only in all the states of the Union but, also, in foreign lands. We hope that in 1953 you will pray for us as you have never prayed before. We are not asking just for these "now I lay me down to sleep" prayers. We are asking you to pray earnestly that God may keep Bob Jones University true to Him and true to the emphasis which has been given ever since I founded the school about twenty-five years ago. Please, also, in 1953, help us all you can financially. We will use your money carefully and prayerfully in our efforts to train Christian young people to go out and rescue the perishing and care for the dying. We are counting on your prayers and your financial support in 1953. If you can send a certain amount monthly, do that; but send some contribution; and please do the best you can. Thank you and God bless you.

BOB JONES, Founder
Bob Jones University
Greenville, S. C.
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The Unpardonable Sin

(Continued from page 10)

is still great. But God does not send the Holy Spirit to plead again with a heart which has settled forever against Him.

IV. Solemn Warnings About This Sin Which Can Never Be Forgiven

Is there yet need of warning to any careless sinner who reads this? Is there some callous or indifferent soul or neglectful soul who might yet trifle away the hours of mercy, might drive away forever the Holy Spirit of God?

A man once opened an elevator door and stepped carelessly, attempted to enter the elevator. It was not there! He stepped out into space, falling eight floors to death. Will any reader so carelessly step beyond the mercy of God, step into the eternal doom of the unpardonable sin? May God's pity warn those who read!

1. Let Me Warn First, Do Not Trifle With the Patience of God!

There's a wideness in God's mercy Like the wideness of the sea, it is true. But the greater the mercy scorned, the more terrible the punishment.

God so loved this poor wicked, hateful, murderous, tainted world, this alien world, this malignant race who had broken His law and despised His righteousness and took ungratefully His blessings—God so loved us that He gave His Son, Heaven's fairest jewel. The dear Lord Jesus Christ, equal to the Father, by whom He made the worlds, the express image of the Father—Jesus came to be born of a maiden, in a stable, to grow up in poverty, to preach to the resisting rabble, to be tried in a crooked court, to be scourged like a criminal, and to die in the public shame of execution on the cross! God loves men! God loves sinners. God loves you!

But love so infinitely merciful, so long-seeking, so long-suffering, so sacrificial, may be spurned too long! God's patience does wear out. And the time may come when God's righteousness demands that God turn His back upon the scornful, unrepentant and resisting sinner.

In that moving book, *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, Lawrence of Arabia tells how he and the Arabs, striking for independence from the unspeakable Turk during World War I, took the village of Tafas from the retreating but bloodthirsty and murderous Turks. Among the corpses on the ground, a little figure tottered off as if trying to escape, a girl three or four years old, soiled dress red with blood down one shoulder and side. She had been wounded, a lance going deeply into the body at the neck. She begged, "Don't hit me, Baba." A choking friend who lived in the village fell from his camel, knelt beside the child. Fearful, she tried to scream and died.

On the mud wall of a sheepfold, a pregnant woman, naked, had been pinned with a saw bayonet. Some twenty other innocent ones butchered were "set out in accord with an obscene taste," Lawrence tells us.

Lawrence told his men that he would regard best the soldiers who would bring in most the Turkish dead. Nearly insane with grief and righteous rage, they pursued the Turks, killing, killing. Part of Lawrence's Arabs had taken prisoner the last two hundred men, and had them huddled under guard. Lawrence would have saved them. But he was called to find one of his own men with thigh shattered and dying; yet heartless Turks had hammered bayonets through his shoulder and the other leg, pinning him to the ground. When they saw this last barbarism and asked who did it, Hassan, dying, motioned toward the prisoners. Is it any wonder that they turned guns upon the prisoners, and shot them down in a heap?

Under other circumstances that would seem horrible. But Lawrence and his men had fought honorably for freedom, by high standards of warfare, only to have women and children, old men and prisoners, tormented and violated

and murdered. Say what you will, the conscience of decent men cries out that such sin must be punished and that such murderers must pay.

That was not God. God's mercy is longer than the mercy of men. But will God's love go on pleading forever with those who despise and insult His Son, those who "do despite to the spirit of grace," those who trample under foot the blood of Jesus Christ?

"He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God"—Heb. 10:28-31.

The scorned love of God, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross, the long and tender wooing of the Holy Spirit, so often repulsed, so often ignored and often insulted—will God's patience last forever? No! One day God's Spirit will withdraw, and man will be left to his own choice and his eternal ruin.

Love, long scorned, gives up and mercy turns to justice.

Dr. Bob Jones, in a city-wide campaign in the Chicago Arena, told the following story:

"Years ago there lived down South an old-time aristocratic Southern gentleman. He had a cultured, refined wife and one boy. He put all the love of a father's heart back of that boy. He put him through high school, and then sent him to university. The boy got drunk and was expelled. The father got him in another institution. Again he got drunk and was expelled. He got him in a third one. Again the boy got drunk and was expelled. People in the neighborhood said, 'If he were my boy, I would kick him out of the house.' The old man went ahead. He had enough influence to get him in a fourth institution. But again he got drunk and was expelled. Then no other institution would have him. The boy came home. He would go downtown and get drunk, and they would lock him up. The old man would go pay his fine, get him out, bring him home, put him to bed, and the mother would bathe him with her tears and nurse him sober. They would get him on his feet, and then he would go back to town and get drunk.

"One day somebody said to the father, 'If that were my boy . . .'

"The father said, 'Don't say that! Don't say that! He is our only boy. My wife and I have talked it over. We are going to stick to him to the end, and we are not going to tolerate anybody's saying anything. You are our neighbor and our friend, but don't say anything.'

"One time the boy went downtown and stayed a day or two. The wife said, 'Dear, you had better go get our son.' The old man got a colored boy, hitched his horse to the buggy, drove downtown, hitched his horse in the wagon yard and started around to the calaboose where he expected to find the boy. He met the boy staggering along the sidewalk cursing. He came up and looked at his father and said, 'What are you doing here? Go on back home and let me alone.' And he spat in the old man's face. The father wiped the spittle off. Tears came in his eyes and rolled down his cheeks. The boy walked up and spat in his face again. Then the boy hit his father and knocked out some of his teeth. The old man, with drooping shoulders, turned back and with trembling hands untied his horse. He drove back home, gave the horse to the colored boy who was there working around the house. The

man did not say a word. He went up in front of the house into a grove and propped his feeble old form, in which there was a broken heart, against a tree. He stood there and cried like a baby. Then he stood back and gave an unearthly scream. He went back and stood by the tree thirty minutes longer, trembling and sobbing and crying. Then he threw himself back and gave the most unearthly scream ever heard fall from human lips. He turned and went back home. He went up on the front porch and walked up and down. He turned his eagle eye up the road—didn't say a word to anybody.

"After a while he saw the son stagger up to the gate, saw him thumb with the latch until he got it open, and then saw him stagger down the walk and up to the front steps. The father waited until he reached the top step. Then he caught him by the collar and shook him and kicked him off the porch. He said, 'Get off these premises, and don't you dare to come back!'

"In forty-eight hours that boy died with delirium tremens, and the old man would not attend his funeral."—(From Bob Jones Revival Sermons, Sword of the Lord Publishers.)

Don't you know that love must some day turn to scorn and holy indignation for the sinner who trifles too long with God?

Do you know how the world of heathen and barbarians came about? Did you think that the backward races, the savages of the earth, ascended from apes by evolution? Well, if you thought so, you were utterly wrong. They all descended from Noah and his sons. They once knew as much as others knew about God and God's

revelation. They once were civilized people.

But how came these people to descend into heathen darkness? The first chapter of Romans tells us why:

"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things."—Rom. 1:21-23.

When they knew God, they did not honor Him. They were not thankful, and so "their foolish heart was darkened." So they began to worship idols and were given over to depravity.

Then God says a startling thing. In the next verse we are told,

"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness . . ."

In verse 26 He says, "For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections . . ."

In verse 28, the Scripture says, "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind . . ."

GOD GAVE THEM UP! God gave them up to uncleanness. God gave them up to vile affections.

GOD GAVE THEM OVER! God gave them over to a reprobate mind. The uncleanness, the vile affections, the idolatry, the wickedness, the blindness and lusts and poverty of heathendom came to a race of people because God gave them up!

I solemnly warn all who read this message—do not trifle with the patience of God! If you ever intend to be saved, turn to God

now before God gives you up, before God withdraws His Spirit, before God lets you go to Hell!

2. If There Is Any Call of the Spirit, Any Moving of Conscience, Be Saved Today!

Oh, how blessed is the poor lost sinner whose conscience tells him he is a sinner! That means that God has not yet given you up. That means that the Spirit of God still calls you! How fortunate is the sinner who knows he is a sinner, who is troubled by it, who feels a burden to be saved! That proves that God's Spirit is still calling you. He has not given you up. You have not crossed the deadline.

In a city-wide campaign in the Binghamton theater in Binghamton, New York, in January and February, 1936, a man who worked in the Endicott-Johnson Shoe Factory, as I recall, was deeply convicted during one service. After I had preached and given a simple invitation for people to turn from their sins and come to Christ and to walk down to the front and tell me so, he stood at his seat and trembled. The sweat broke out on his forehead. His foreman in the shoe factory came and stood by his side and urged him to come and be saved. A fellow workman came to the other side and put his arm around him. But this poor sinner held onto the seat in front of him and trembled and said, "No, no!" He was not ready. But the deep concern in his heart, the war in his soul, caused him to fall fainting. His friends caught him up and carried him outside into the zero cold. Soon he was revived. One man said to the other helper, "Here, you stay with him, and I'll get my car and take him home."

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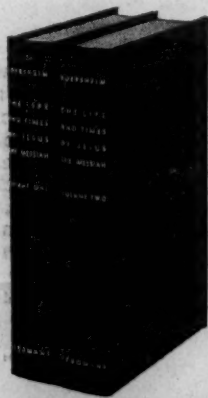
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Whiskey is legal in Massachusetts, but the state has discovered a little late that it has not been a profitable business.

A committee was appointed to make an unbiased and complete study of the problem of drunkenness. The members were appointed by the governor, and were the chairman of the parole board, the commissioner of mental health, and a justice of the Municipal court of the city of Boston.

The following is taken verbatim from the report:

1. The annual cost of caring for those patients whose illness have been caused or precipitated by alcoholism approximates: \$4,000,000.

2. The annual cost of crime due to inebriety approximates: \$6,000,000.

3. The annual cost of financial dependence of others (or charity or whatever name one chooses to call it) due to inebriety approximates: \$51,000,000.

Total amount cost—\$61,000,000. Parenthetically, it might be pointed out that against this cost

figure the commonwealth and its cities and towns received \$13,139,266 from alcohol tax beverages in 1943.

B. Intangible Costs

The costs enumerated above do not represent any figures for capital outlay for buildings, major replacements, etc.; nor do the general effects of excessive indulgence in liquor, as expressed in terms of broken homes and lives, the conduct of courts in disposing of cases, lend themselves to a definite dollar and cent interpretation.

Generally they may be considered as intangible costs! although there is nothing intangible in the eyes of community chest funds, etc.

"The loss of productive man-hours in industry likewise is tremendous, and its financial loss incomparable. With probably 2,000 chronic alcoholics in Massachusetts, it is not unreasonable to assume their annual pay check loss would average \$1,000 per person." (This would total \$20,000,000).—The Oklahoma Dry.

The Unpardonable Sin

(Continued from page 11)

But the unconverted man said, "No! I'm going back!"

They tried to get him to go home. They urged his weakness; they said he could come back tomorrow night.

But he insisted, "No, I must do it tonight. God has told me in my heart that it is now or never. I must be saved tonight."

So he came back into the auditorium and met me in the wings, and told me his story. How wonderful that he came back, and that he said "yes" to God that night before it was too late.

If the Spirit of God calls you, you can be saved. Will you turn to Christ today and trust Him and be saved?

Are you fearful that you have waited too long? Then I will tell you how you can know. If you really want to be saved, you can. For Jesus said, "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Rev. 22:17). If you want to, that proves you can. And remember that Jesus said, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). Just come. Never mind whether you feel any certain way or not; if you honestly want to come, if you choose to come, then come in your heart, this moment, and trust Jesus Christ to save you. Those who come to Christ, He never turns down. "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom. 10:13). If, here and now, you turn to Christ, admit your sinfulness and turn from it in your heart; if you will trust Jesus Christ to forgive and save you here and now, then that moment you will be saved. Will you do it?

Decide it, out and out. Will you turn to Jesus Christ? Will you depend upon Him to save you? Will you give Him your heart forever? If so, then flee to Jesus right now. Then, I beg you, sign your name to the decision form below. Copy it in a letter and send it to me. Go on record! Decide it, and tell it, and let it be known at once. In Jesus' dear name, do not trifle with your immortal soul. Be saved while you can.

I will look for your letter, will write you some counsel and encouragement. Sign it and copy and mail it today.

Evangelist John R. Rice, Editor THE SWORD OF THE LORD Wheaton, Illinois

Dear Brother Rice: I have read your sermon on "The Unpardonable Sin." I confess to Jesus Christ that I am a sinner, an unworthy lost sinner who needs salvation. I realize that to delay is wicked and dangerous. Therefore, I will delay no longer. I will not trifle longer with the blessed Holy Spirit. Today, now, I turn from sins in my heart. I trust Jesus Christ to forgive me and save my soul. I claim Him and depend upon Him, and rely upon Him now as my Saviour forever. By His grace, I will claim Him openly and try to live for Him.

There is a time, I know not when,
A place, I know not where,
Which marks the destiny of men
To Heaven or despair.

There is a line by us not seen,
Which crosses every path;
The hidden boundary between
God's patience and His wrath.

To cross that limit is to die,
To die, as if by stealth.
It may not pale the beaming eye,
Nor quench the glowing health.

The conscience may be still at ease,
The spirit light and gay.
That which is pleasing still may please
And care be thrust away.

But on that forehead God hath set
Indelibly a mark,
By man unseen, for man as yet
Is blind and in the dark.

And still the doomed man's path
below
May bloom like Eden bloomed.
He did not, does not, will not
know,

Nor feel that he is doomed.

He feels, he sees that all is well,
His every fear is calmed.

He lives, he dies, he wakes in Hell,
Not only doomed, but damned.

Oh, where is that mysterious bourn,
By which each path is crossed,
Beyond which God Himself hath sworn

That he who goes is lost?

How long may man go on in sin,
How long will God forbear?

Where does hope end, and where begin
The confines of despair?

One answer from those skies is sent,
"Ye who from God depart,
While it is called today, repent,
And harden not your heart."

Will you be saved today? If you wish to be saved, you can and you may. And if you will be saved, first make the honest decision in your heart and say an eternal "yes" to Jesus Christ. You can have help from God to forsake your sins.

Decide it, out and out. Will you turn to Jesus Christ? Will you depend upon Him to save you? Will you give Him your heart forever? If so, then flee to Jesus right now. Then, I beg you, sign your name to the decision form below. Copy it in a letter and send it to me. Go on record! Decide it, and tell it, and let it be known at once. In Jesus' dear name, do not trifle with your immortal soul. Be saved while you can.

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Dear Brother Rice:

"Your articles and sermons in the SWORD are always a blessing and refreshment to me. As a missionary I find myself always burning out for others trying to win the lost and I need your sermons to put more fuel on the fire.

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Rev. L. I.

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Pastor E. M. Brasil.

"I wish to convey my thanks to the one who so kindly sent me THE SWORD OF THE LORD. It wasn't until recently that I took time to read the articles through even though the paper had been coming for a little over a month or more—for a first glance the articles looked quite long for easy and quick reading. But now that I have read them I find them very helpful, challenging and interesting. As a missionary we need reading of this sort to help us keep in mind the value of putting "first things first."

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